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Worldwide Report

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

No. 381



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL CONSERVATION POLICY REPORT UNDER DEBATE

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 23-24 Oct 82 p 15

[Article by Jane Ford]

[Text]

DEVELOPERS and conservationists are taking up positions for what promises to be yet another long and possibly bitter struggle — but this time no particular piece of real estate is at stake.

Instead, the much wider terrain of a national conservation strategy for Australia is at issue.

A key discussion paper on the strategy already has brought wide but conflicting criticism from both sides.

Predictably, industry groups have accused the paper of going too far, saying it lacks balance, favors unnecessary legislation and regulation and takes no account of costs.

Equally predictably, the conservationists say it has not gone far enough and are calling for stronger controls over development, increased public participation and more definitive statements on conservation.

Some consensus must be reached by February when a national conference is to formulate a final national conservation strategy.

The strategy, being painstakingly nurtured by a small task force in the Department of Home Affairs and Environment, has arisen from a recommendation of the recently-formulated world conservation strategy. The recommendation has spawned a similarly exacting process in a number of other countries.

The aim is to draw up a strategy, agreed to by the widest community, which will help Australia achieve a sustainable level of development through conservation of its living resources.

The central document for public comment was drawn up last November after a seminar attended by industrialists, conservation groups, academics and public servants.

Since it was released for public discussion in May more than 500 submissions have poured in, a surprising 45 per cent of them from individuals.

The task force, under its director Dr George Wilson, is sifting through the sometimes laudatory, often critical and almost always widely divergent responses to produce a draft strategy acceptable to all.

Dr Wilson points out that almost all the responses to the discussion paper have supported the general concept of a national conservation strategy, and that both developers and conservationists have given it serious and detailed consideration. He believes there should be room for negotiation.

The industry groups, with their extensive resources, have prepared the most well argued submissions in what seems a well orchestrated campaign.

One of their strongest criticisms is the lack of balance between conservation and development and what they claim is

an overemphasis on the preservation aspects of conservation.

The Australian Industries Development Association, which attacks the paper for being confused, woolly, and backward-looking, says it shows a serious lack of balance.

"Conservation is seen by the discussion paper as the ultimate aim of mankind, with development being required to adjust its activities accordingly," it says.

"This approach is inconsistent with the objective of integrating conservation and development goals."

However, Dr Wilson says this AIDA statement aptly sums up the whole thrust of the strategy. It is a conservation, not a development strategy — and if necessary development must adapt its activities.

"This is one point from which we don't intend to budge," he says.

Another major industry complaint concerns what it sees as an excessive concentration on legislation and regulation. AIDA has included a detailed nine-page submission on legislation, in which it maintains that the discussion paper largely rejects consultation between developers and the various levels of government. The preferred solution appeared to be more prescriptive regulation and more legal challenges of development activities, AIDA notes.

It warns that this approach will further the drift to an expensive and unwieldy and highly litigious American-type system. Unnecessary constraints on developers' activities could prejudice long-term development goals, with serious economic consequences for the community.

"The discussion paper is exhaustive in identifying perceived threats to living resources, it is silent on the dangers of unnecessarily constraining developmental activities," AIDA says.

The Confederation of Australian Industry and the Australian Mining Industry Council are particularly concerned that the courts will become responsible for conservation, whereas the responsibility for final decisions should rest with governments.

"A resort to more detailed legislation and the adversary form of the courts would make even more difficult the task of achieving the integration of conservation and development goals," the AMIC says.

However, conservation groups as well as a number of academics have stressed the need for more regulation of industry and legislation with "more teeth" to restrain development.

For instance the Australian Heritage Commission has emphasised the need to legislate to protect resources from short-term profit making.

The high cost of conservation proposals — particularly if introduced in the present economic recession — is another major industry concern.

AIDA points out that, at least initially, the strategy will have to find acceptance in an unfavorable economic climate. It would be foolish to embark on sweeping and potentially costly programs in "blind disregard of this climate," AIDA argues.

The National Farmers Federation accuses the strategy of largely ignoring practicability, cost/benefit calculations and financial implications of the proposals. CAI also argues that there has been no attempt to rigorously analyse the costs and benefits of conservation activity.

But Dr Wilson rejects these criticisms, saying it is not the

task force's job to cost the options raised in the strategy but merely to lay down environmental guidelines.

The issue of public participation has also split the two camps, with conservationists pressing for much greater community involvement in development decision-making and industrialists, again predictably, calling for less.

Thus the Heritage Commission maintains that the rights of individuals to lodge objections, make public comment at inquiries and lodge appeals should be promoted in the strategy.

But the National Farmers Federation fears that the powers of community groups would be extended well beyond what society now regards as acceptable.

Other industry concerns include what CAI describes as the "glossing over" of the constitutional role of Commonwealth, State and local governments in conservation and the overall need for a much broader approach to the whole strategy.

However, conservationists and academics are much more concerned about the exact wording of the strategy, stressing the need for a much more detailed approach to such things as wildlife conservation, forestry, water, the impact of agriculture, soil degradation and one overwhelming concern — population growth.

The Australian Conservation Foundation criticises the paper for its implicit assumption that the Australian population can go on increasing, and the director of the Australian Museum, Dr Des Griffin, stresses that the strategy should make it clear that conservation of resources and improvement in the quality of life requires a long-term policy on population growth and size which recognises the limits of a very arid environment to support large numbers of people at a Western standard of living.

Some submissions go as far as totally rejecting the discussion paper, with groups such as the Victorian Sawmillers Association calling for its withdrawal.

Others, like the Fund for Animals Ltd, Australia, find it impossible to come to terms

even with the underlying assumptions of the strategy.

While supporting many of its objectives, the fund rejects its failure to question the whole doctrine of unlimited economic growth.

"We argue that since the operating logic of the strategy rests upon a case of seeking compromise between development under growth conditions and conservation under stable ones — a relationship which is inherently conflictual — then we must reject the document as being impracticable."

Impracticable or not, the task force now has to reconcile these very divergent views by the end of November so that all of the 150 delegates who have been invited to the February national conference will have a draft strategy paper by Christmas.

Despite the apparently wide differences, Dr Wilson is optimistic that Australia could become the first country in the world to draw up and ratify its own national conservation strategy.

EPA URGES TOUGHER AIR POLLUTION CONTROLS IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 4 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by Paul Chadwick]

[Text]

Monitoring had shown that acceptable levels of smog and lead in Melbourne's atmosphere were being exceeded, according to the Environment Protection Authority.

In its 1981-82 report, tabled in State Parliament yesterday, the EPA said control programmes should be introduced to reduce the levels of smog and lead and to increase visibility.

The report called for regulations to further reduce exhaust and fuel evaporation emissions from vehicles.

The EPA says unleaded petrol and a pollution device called an exhaust gas catalytic converter to control emissions could reduce pollution and improve fuel consumption.

It says vehicles equipped with the device would produce 50 per cent less hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide emissions. The system might add \$150 to the cost of vehicles, but this would be quickly offset by fuel economy and maintenance benefits.

"Average vehicle fuel economy is expected to improve by about 10 per cent. The catalysts can clean up the vehicle exhaust emissions and the engine can be designed and tuned to maximise

fuel economy and performance without using engine-based pollution control systems," the report says.

"Vehicle maintenance costs should be reduced by the equivalent of one cent per litre of petrol used."

A New South Wales State pollution control commission study had shown that a Holden Commodore 2.3 fitted with a catalyst system and with simple engine adjustments had reduced its city fuel consumption by 12 per cent. A Datsun 200B, similarly refitted, reduced its consumption over the same distance by 8 per cent.

The report says: "The two major current pollution concerns (in Melbourne) are photochemical smog and lead." Motor vehicles produced 70 per cent of Melbourne's nitrogen oxide, 40 per cent of hydrocarbons, 80 per cent of carbon monoxide and almost all the lead in the air.

Photochemical smog, which is caused by the reaction of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons, in sunlight, was a considerable problem in Melbourne, the report says.

The EPA air policy specifies that oxidant, a major component of photochemical smog, should not equal or exceed 0.15 parts per million (ppm) at any time and should not reach 0.12 ppm more than once a year. Between November 1981 and March this year

oxidant exceeded 0.15 ppm eight times and 0.12 ppm 14 times.

The EPA's lead level objective "was regularly exceeded at two of the seven (monitoring) stations", the report says.

The station in Alexandra Parade, Collingwood, recorded the highest level. It was between 5.8 and 9 micrograms per cubic metre while the objective is only 1.5 micrograms per cubic metre.

While this station was close to a busy road and not typical of Melbourne's air, the readings "do indicate the potential levels in heavily trafficked areas," the report says.

In 1981-82, light pollution was reported on 99 days (92 in 1980-81) and significant pollution was recorded on 14 days (eight the previous year).

Visibility was 68 times worse than the air policy objectives.

The EPA says that the high failure rate of vehicles subjected to exhaust emission tests continued in 1981.

"Emission quality of vehicles is not significantly improving and the authority has been exploring various avenues to improve the situation. The generally poor tuning of most vehicles is a major reason for the high failure rate."

SEWAGE DISCHARGE POLLUTING NSW'S HAWKESBURY RIVER

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 4 Nov 82 p 11

[Article by Joseph Glascott]

[Text]

The Hawkesbury River would be polluted for more than half its length from Camden to Broken Bay by the year 2000 unless sewage discharge was controlled, the State Pollution Control Commission warned yesterday.

The commission in its annual report, which was tabled, announced the results of a three-year study of pollution in the Hawkesbury, Nepean River basin.

The commission said the studies showed that if nutrient-removal facilities were not installed at sewerage treatment works on the river, or other disposal methods adopted, the concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorous nutrients

in the river at low-flow levels would increase from two to 10 times by the year 2000.

In addition, the zones of the river affected would increase in length.

By the year 2000, the areas of the river affected by pollution to eutrophic conditions downstream of Penrith and downstream of Windsor would join together.

This would make one large river pollution zone from Penrith to Wiseman's Ferry.

The commission said that by the year 2000, the Hawkesbury River catchment area population would increase from the present 500,000 to about 800,000.

Sewage from this population would most likely be discharged into the river and its tributaries.

The problems already identified with the river system were:

- The extremely poor water quality

of South and Eastern Creeks, both of which were the receiving waters for the largest sewage treatment works in the basin.

- The high levels of ammonia nitrogen in the main stream below these points.

- Extensive saline intrusion into the normally freshwater sections of the estuary during low river flows.

The commission said that the studies showed that if nutrient-removal or alternative sewage disposal strategies were not adopted, downstream of Camden, the poor conditions of the river at low flow will be intensified and extended into longer reaches of the river.

Although most of the problems occurred during low-flow periods, the low-flow conditions occurred 50 to 60 per cent of the time.

In droughts low flow of the river could occur over many successive months.

STATE-FEDERAL CONTROVERSY FLARES IN FRANKLIN DAM ISSUE

Fraser-Gray Impasse

Melbourne THE AGE in English 28 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by Simon Balderstone]

[Text] CANBERRA. — The Australian Democrats yesterday introduced in the Senate a bill designed to save the Franklin River, and the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, reaffirmed that the Government would not be withdrawing south-west Tasmania from nomination for the World Heritage list.

Mr Fraser told yesterday's joint party meeting that the Tasmanian Premier, Mr Gray, who said on Tuesday the Government would withdraw the nomination, knew the Government had no intention of withdrawing it.

But Mr Fraser also said listing on the World Heritage list did not necessarily mean the Gordon-below-Franklin dam would not go ahead.

His comment puzzled some Government officials, as under the World Heritage Convention, the Federal Government has obligations and responsibilities regarding the preservation of areas on the World Heritage list.

Mr Gray reacted angrily to Mr Fraser's statement and said the Prime Minister had no right to intervene in a matter which was purely one of Tasmanian sovereignty.

Mr Gray said his Government would continue to oppose World Heritage listing, which was against the interests of Tasmania and against the interests of the Federalist system.

He said it was a pity Mr Fraser's "disappointing" decision had not recognised that fact.

In the Senate, the Democrats' spokesman on environment, Senator Mason, introduced the World Heritage Properties Protection Bill 1982. The bill would make it unlawful for anyone to take any action which adversely affects an area nominated for, or included in, a World Heritage listing.

The Federal Government nominated the western Tasmania wilderness National Parks for World Heritage listing in November last year, and the World Heritage Committee will consider that nomination at its meeting in December.

Senator Mason said his bill did nothing more than put into legislation the responsibilities that the Federal Government had accepted by endorsing the World Heritage Convention in 1974.

He said the end result of the bill would be to ensure that south-west Tasmania would be saved for future generations in accordance with Australia's obligations and would also mean that other areas already on the list would be given the full protection of Commonwealth law.

He said it was quite possible that the Federal Government could regulate to preserve the south-west, and all people concerned with the environment would welcome such a move.

"Unfortunately, we have waited and waited for the Federal Government to act. For the sake

of the wilderness we can wait no longer," he said. "Roads are being gouged in to the proposed dam site. Quarries are being excavated and camps are being built. This activity has resulted in a serious fire in the area."

Senator Mason said political and economic arguments had little place in the debate, the essence of which was that south-west Tasmania was a magnificent wilderness area that had been recognised as such by State and Federal Governments, and that Australia had ratified a convention which gave it an obligation to ensure the heritage areas were fully protected.

There was no debate on the bill yesterday, and the attitude of the Labor Party to it has not yet been decided. However, the ALP platform policy is a "no dams" policy which involves a compensatory economic package to the Tasmanian Government.

The bill requires the support of the ALP, and at least one other senator to get through. Several Liberal senators are sympathetic to the contents of the bill.

Mr Fraser, and the acting Attorney-General, were asked several questions on the issue in the joint party room meeting yesterday.

They said the matter was to go to Cabinet soon, and would not disclose the contents of legal opinions the Government has received on its powers regarding south-west Tasmania.

WA Support for Tasmania

Melbourne: THE AGE in English 2 Nov 82 p 6

[Article by Nigel Wilson]

[Text] PERTH. — States' rights considerations mean that Western Australia will not back plans to put part of south-west Tasmania, containing the Gordon and Franklin rivers, on the World Heritage list.

Support for the Tasmanian Government in its dispute with the Commonwealth on the issue was announced at the weekend by the Premier, Mr O'Connor. It is the latest in a number of allegations by Mr O'Connor since he succeeded to the Premiership earlier in the year that Canberra is not respecting the sovereignty of the States.

He said the State Government believed the Commonwealth should not nominate any area for inclusion in the World Heritage list without the approval of the State or territory concerned.

As far as the latest clash was concerned, the Commonwealth had nominated 11 per cent of the area of Tasmania without the

Tasmanian Government's approval.

If a buffer zone around the Gordon and Franklin rivers was included, the area nominated represented 23 per cent of the total area of Tasmania.

Mr O'Connor said the Tasmanian Government was deeply concerned that the Commonwealth might try to use its foreign affairs power to take control of the area once it was included in the World Heritage list.

"This would be a totally unacceptable abuse of Commonwealth power and an unforgivable assault on State sovereignty," he said.

Conservationists in Western Australia are concerned that the Premier's remarks are directed more against moves to nominate parts of WA for the list.

A spokeswoman for Friends of the Earth in Perth said one area of concern was a proposal for a joint Australian-US amphibious training area on the north-west coast.

CSO: 5000/7514

STATE-FEDERAL FEUD OVER TASMANIAN DAM RISES TO NEW LEVEL

Party Differences

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Nov 82 p 1

[Article by Brian Hill]

[Text]

THE Federal Opposition yesterday set itself on a collision course with the Tasmanian ALP by pledging to block construction of the controversial Franklin River dam.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Hayden, said the Federal Labor Party agreed with the Fraser Government that Tasmania's south-west wilderness area must be included on the World Heritage List.

"The inevitable consequence of this bi-partisan policy is that any dam development proposed for the area cannot be allowed to proceed," Mr Hayden said.

But the State ALP Leader in Tasmania, Mr Wriedt, replied: "The Tasmanian people clearly want the Gordon-below-Franklin power development scheme to proceed, and it will be supported by the State Opposition."

"I do not accept that any body outside this State has a right to go clearly against the wishes of the majority of the Tasmanian people."

An almost unprecedented situation has now been reached whereby a State Labor Party and a State Liberal Party are united against a Federal Liberal Government and a Federal Labor Opposition.

Last night the Tasmanian Premier, Mr Gray, was quick to support Mr Wriedt.

He said: "The dam is going to be built no matter who interferes, be it the Prime Minister or Mr Hayden."

At the same time, Mr Hayden criticised the Fraser Government for what he said was its failure to exert its authority following a request by the Tasmanian Government for the Federal Government's nomination of the wilderness area to be withdrawn from the World Heritage List.

Mr Hayden claimed that confidential advice from the Attorney-General's Department stated that a nation having once identified an area as part of its "natural heritage" could not claim it was no longer such an area "simply because its preservation is politically difficult or expensive, or because it is an impediment to industrial works".

According to Mr Hayden, Labor's seven-point program would ensure that:

THE Federal and Tasmanian Governments would explore alternative economically viable power generation projects with the aim of funding them on terms comparable to those which would have ap-

plied for the proposed south-west Tasmanian power generation development project.

TOTAL federal payments to Tasmania would not fall in real terms.

THE proposed Tasmanian Development Corporation would be supported.

LABOR'S regional economic and industrial development policies would be applied with specific attention to the special disabilities and needs of Tasmania.

THE Tasmanian Government, in co-operation with the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, would be encouraged to establish a South-West Tasmanian Management Authority responsible for the management of the World Heritage area extending to include the entire south-west conservation area.

FINANCIAL assistance for capital and recurrent expenditure by the authority would be provided, including payments to the Tasmanian National Parks and Wildlife Service to meet its responsibilities in the area.

A NUMBER of initiatives to assist Tasmania's tourist industry would be instituted.

Opposition Pressure in Canberra

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Nov 82 p 32

[Excerpt] Canberra: The Federal Opposition yesterday called on the Government to declare whether it would intervene to stop the proposed damming of the Franklin River in the south-west Tasmania.

The Labor leader, Mr Hayden, said that the Government had a legal and moral obligation to stop the project going ahead.

"Although Mr Fraser has not declared that obligation it is quite clear that he must," Mr Hayden said.

"Otherwise it makes the whole gesture (of nominating the area for World Heritage listing) a hypocritical one and puts it in direct conflict with the obligations under the World Heritage Convention."

Dissent in Tasmanian Ranks

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 10 Nov 82 p 30

[Article by Peter Dwyer]

[Text]

THE Tasmanian Government has been accused by a group of its own employees of making false claims in support of its decision to dam the Franklin River for hydro-electricity.

A rebel group of 850 public servants from 32 departments and instrumentalities has paid for a newspaper advertisement calling on the Federal Government to "stop the Franklin destruction".

The public servants from all levels of the government workforce include employees of the Hydro-Electric Commission (which is building the dam) the Premier's Department and the Treasury. The three departments are all administered by the Premier, Mr Gray.

The advertisement was placed in Melbourne in an attempt to push the dam row as an issue in the coming Flinders federal by-election.

The federal ALP has announced it will stop the project if it wins Government at a national poll and there is growing pressure on the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, to halt the dam.

The advertisement accuses the Tasmanian Government and the Hydro-Electric Commission of putting forward false arguments in support of the project, contrary to information it was given by public servants.

It has been authorised on behalf of the group by the former Premier of Tasmania, Mr Doug Lowe, now an Independent, who said yesterday the advertisement had been instigated from within the Public Service.

He said: "It shows that there is a point at which decent, average Tasmanians who are working for the Government recoil at the distortion of information that they have provided to the Government."

"These are not just junior public servants, there are some very senior officers behind this."

It was Mr Lowe's Labor Government which recommended that the Federal Government nominate the Franklin River area of south-west Tasmania for inclusion on the World Heritage List.

The nomination is likely to be approved by the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations before Christmas and will put the onus on the Federal Government to stop the dam.

The advertisement, headed "South-west Tasmania - World Heritage" features a photograph of part of the Franklin River and says: "Let's separate the facts from the fiction".

It then lists six examples of where the group believes the Government or the Hydro-Electric Commission has made false claims in an attempt to justify the dam, then provides what it claims are the facts.

It says that, contrary to claims by Mr Gray, only 11.3 per cent — not 25 per cent — of south-west Tasmania will be affected by World Heritage listing and that, according to the South-west Tasmania Resources Survey 1981, the area is poor in timber and mineral resources.

It argues that Tasmania's hydro-electricity is not economical and gives an example of Queensland power being quoted to BHP at a cheaper rate.

The advertisement also denies claims that Tasmania will need the extra power from the dam, that the dam will create 3500 jobs, that it will boost tourism in the south-west and that the Franklin is a "brown, leech-ridden ditch, unattractive to the majority of the people".

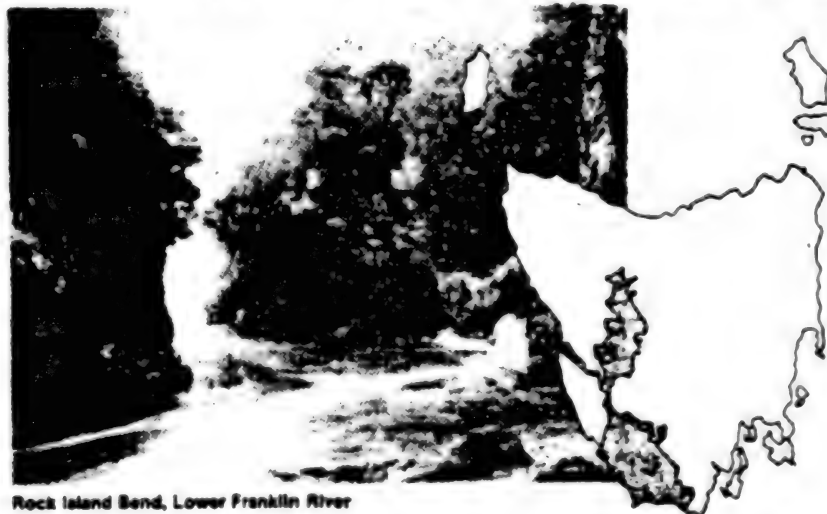
Expose of Government Claims

Melbourne THE AGE in English 10 Nov 82 p 7

[Advertisement: "Southwest Tasmania—World Heritage"]

[Text]

SOUTHWEST TASMANIA — WORLD HERITAGE




Rock Island Bend, Lower Franklin River

Let's separate the **FACTS** from the **FICTION**.....

- Fiction:** The (World Heritage) proposal would involve locking 25%, nearly a quarter of Tasmania, up in perpetuity The SouthWest contains hydro resources, mineral resources, forestry resources which are absolutely vital to the well-being of this State. (Premier Gray, A.B.C. Radio Programme A.M., 17/10/82)
- Fact:** 11.3% of Tasmania was nominated in 1981. The **ONLY** areas nominated were existing National Parks. The area is poor in timber and mineral resources (SouthWest Tasmania Resources Survey, 1981). There are good alternatives to development of the region's hydro-electric potential.
- Fiction:** Tasmania's hydro power is economical — the average price is 1.8 cents per unit. (Tasmanian Government -H.E.C advertisement, 22/10/82)
- Fact:** Under secret, long-term contracts a few energy-intensive industries pay less than 1 cent per unit. Domestic consumers pay 5 cents, commercial users considerably more. New industries no longer see Tasmania's electricity as cheap. B.H.P. management was quoted 4 cents per unit for Tasmanian power, compared to 3 cents in Queensland. (Evidence to Senate Select Committee, 2/5/82)

- Fiction: Tasmania needs another power project (*Tasmanian Government - H.E.C. advertisement, 22/10/82*)
- Fact: The H.E.C.'s own figures show growth in power demand has slumped. Electricity consumption in July-August this year was actually 5% BELOW 1981 levels. Meanwhile the Pieman scheme is due to come fully on line by 1986, increasing Tasmania's power supply by 17%.
- Fiction: Constructing hydro schemes creates 3500 jobs in Tasmania (*Tasmanian Govt. - H.E.C. advertisement, 22/10/82*)
- Fact: The \$453 million Gordon-below-Franklin scheme would employ an average field work-force of almost 600 men during the twelve year construction period. Only 29 employees will be required to operate the scheme on completion (*H.E.C. Report, Appendix 8, 1979*)
- Fiction: Hydro schemes — a bonus to Tasmanian tourism. (*Tasmanian Government - H.E.C. advertisement, 22/10/82*)
- Fact: The unspoilt Lower Gordon River is Tasmania's foremost natural tourist attraction. Some tour operators fear that the Gordon-below-Franklin scheme will destroy the riverside scenery.
- Fiction: For 11 months of the year the Franklin River is nothing but a brown ditch, leech-ridden, unattractive to the majority of people. (*Premier Gray, The Examiner, 18/9/82*)
- Fact: The Franklin — Lower Gordon River system is the centrepiece of the nominated World Heritage area, which contains many rare plants and animals, temperate rainforests 2000 years old and archaeological sites of world significance. The area offers scenic, wilderness and recreational resources to people of all ages and fitness.

**AS TASMANIANS AND AUSTRALIANS, WE ARE PROUD OF OUR SOUTHWEST.
WE CALL ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO STOP THE FRANKLIN DESTRUCTION
AND TO ACTIVELY PROTECT ITS SOUTHWEST WORLD HERITAGE NOMINATION.**



SPONSORED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY

850 TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

from 32 departments including Dept. of Agriculture, Attorney-General's Dept., Education Dept., Dept. of Environment, Forestry Commission, Hydro-Electric Commission, Lands Dept., Dept. of Main Roads, Mines Dept., National Parks and Wildlife Service, Premier's Dept., Dept. of Tourism, Treasury Dept.

Authorised by the Hon. Doug Lowe, M.H.A., Parliament House, Hobart.

CSO: 5000/7518

NSW GOV'T OPTS FOR CONSERVATION IN RAINFOREST ISSUE

Background to Decision

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 19 Oct 82 p 12

[Article by Mike Steketee]

[Excerpts] The Minister for Energy, Mr Landa, is cutting short an overseas trip to take part in today's Cabinet debate on the future of the State's remaining rain forests.

The decision by Mr Landa to return several days early from talks in Asia indicates both how crucial the issue has become in the Government and how close a decision is likely to be.

Mr Landa, who will go virtually straight from Tokyo into the Cabinet Room, is a former Minister for Planning and Environment and a strong supporter of the preservation of rain forests.

It appeared yesterday there was narrow majority support for the preservation of rain forest areas such as Washpool, linked with a scheme to provide alternative employment for the hundreds of timber workers affected.

"The trees have got the numbers on Washpool," was how one supporter of preservation put it.

Sources said yesterday that Cabinet would concentrate on Washpool but its decision would set the framework for a comprehensive policy on rain forests.

The stakes are high on both sides. Supporters of preservation argue that, apart from the long-term environmental issues involved, the decision is vital to the very future of the Labor Party.

They argue that an increasing number of young voters feel strongly about conservation issues and that a pro-logging decision by Cabinet would see large number of them deserting the ALP in favour of parties such as the Australian Democrats.

On the other side, members of the Government such as the Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation, Mr. Day, and the Minister for

Local Government and Lands, Mr Gordon, have argued strongly and publicly in favour of logging.

Washpool is in Mr Day's electorate of Clarence and supporters attribute the increase in his majority in the election last year--in a seat the National Party was hoping to win--partly to his strong stand on rainforests.

The importance of Washpool to conservationists is, they say, that its 17,400 hectares of rainforest is the largest such area left in NSW and is inside one of the State's few wilderness areas. [as published]

Areas at Stake

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 22 Oct 82 p 14

[Article by Joseph Glascott]

[Text] Seven areas of rainforests on the North Coast will be protected if State Cabinet next week adopts a rainforest policy accepting the submissions of conservationists.

After Cabinet discussions on Tuesday, Government authorities said an overall rainforest decision was expected to be made next week.

The executive secretary of the National Parks Association, Mr Peter Prineas, said yesterday the association wanted to protect:

.The Washpool Forests of about 40,000 hectares, west of Grafton, the largest unlogged rainforest in NSW.

.The Nightcap Range forests, north-west of Lismore, of about 4,000 hectares, taking in Goonimbah State Forest and parts of Whian Whian Forest.

.The Border Ranges on the Queensland border taking in Wiangarie and Roseberry Forests.

.The Murray Scrub, about 1,000 hectares, on the Richmond Range, west of Lismore.

.The Black Scrub, on the escarpment west of Bellingen, taking in most of the Bellinger State Forest.

.The upper Forbes River Valley and parts of Mt Boss and the adjoining Banda Banda State Forests, of about 12,000 hectares, in the Hastings Valley west of Wauchope.

.Additional areas of the Barrington Tops north of Newcastle to include rainforests and hardwood forests on the slopes of the plateau.

One of the long-standing arguments to be decided by Cabinet is the definition of rainforest.

Sawmillers and the Forestry Commission classify rainforests in a different way from conservationists.

Mr Prineas said: "The issue of what is a rainforest was argued exhaustively at the Terania Creek inquiry.

"The Forestry Commission defines rainforest according to its timber potential. Ecologists define it on a wider basis.

"Rainforest cannot be artificially defined by lines on a map.

"Plants and animals of the rainforest don't accept such lines.

"The rainforest and its flora and fauna species intermingle with surrounding hardwood forests."

Mr Prineas said that under the Forestry Commission definition any forest growing hardwood trees was not a rainforest.

But hardwoods could be growing in an area with rainforest tree species.

"Ecologists claim that such an area with strong representation of rainforest trees is part of the rainforest," he said.

The director of the NSW Forest Products Association, Mr Keith Jordan, said if Cabinet adopted a policy preventing logging in the seven forest areas it would be disastrous for the timber industry.

He said it would cut the industry on the North Coast in half.

"It is suggested that the timber industry can obtain supplies from other forests," he said.

"But if we are forced to over-cut the remaining forests, the problems will only be delayed for another 15 to 20 years.

"If the major sawmilling companies can't have a guaranteed life beyond 15 years, they will move out of the industry."

Job Loss Predictions

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 23 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by Joe Glascott and Jack Taylor]

[Excerpts] A judge's decision that an environmental impact statement must be prepared before logging could start in a State forest could lead to the loss of 1,800 jobs in the NSW timber industry, the secretary of the Labor Council, Mr Unsworth, said last night.

Mr Unsworth said the decision would prevent even small forestry operations taking place all over the State unless an environmental impact statement was prepared first.

The executive director of the NSW Forest Products Association, Mr Keith Jordan, said the decision could be used to stop all logging in the State overnight.

Justice Cripps handed down the decision in the Land and Environment Court yesterday, ordering that the Forestry Commission of NSW and the Standard Sawmilling Company Pty Ltd be restrained from logging in the Goonimbar State Forest, in the Nightcap Ranges near Lismore, until an environmental impact statement had been prepared and the commission had considered it.

The loss of jobs would affect 21 towns including Gloucester, Kempsey, Casino, Armidale, Queanbeyan, Bega and Batemans Bay.

Mr Jordan said the sawmilling industry could be required to carry out environmental impact statements before establishing any logging in the State.

"A normal commercial environmental impact statement costs at least \$35,000," he said.

"The State Government would not pay for it. Sawmillers would be asked to pay and the cost would be passed on to the consumer.

"If sawmilling companies have to provide a statement every time they want to put a road in, the industry will not be economically viable."

The executive secretary of the National Parks Association, Mr Peter Prineas, said, "It means that from now on the logging of our native forests will have to be carried out with genuine regard for the protection of the environment.

"It is an indication that the new environmental legislation which came into force in September, 1980, is going to work."

Justice Cripps decided that the Goonimbar logging project would significantly affect the environment.

The forest, about 30km north of Lismore was described as the southern end of a spectacular mountain range encircling the Tweed Valley.

Cabinet Decision

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 27 Oct 82 p 1

[Excerpts] State Cabinet decided yesterday to protect most of the remaining rainforests in NSW by taking them into national parks.

The Premier, Mr Wran, announcing the Cabinet decision, said rainforest logging would be phased out almost immediately.

Cabinet had allocated alternative areas of forest to sustain the timber industry and jobs, and there was no reason for any jobs to be lost in the industry on the North Coast.

Mr Wran said the Government would provide \$1 million to help sawmills change to new technology to avoid the use of rainforest timbers.

"The Government takes the view that the rainforests are part of our heritage," he said.

"There might be small pockets which can still be logged, but the large, controversial areas have been decided upon and will be preserved.

"We have had to seek a sensible balance between preserving the rainforests for succeeding generations and the needs of people and industry today.

"We will not have made everyone happy. There will be dissent, but they will get nowhere at this stage.

"I hope this decision will be the end of the rainforest argument."

Affected Sites

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 27 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by Joe Glascott]

[Text] Cabinet's decision means that about 50,000 hectares of rainforests will be preserved in national parks.

The remaining allocation of rainforest timbers to Big Rivers Timbers Pty Ltd for 1982-83 will be halved, and Government will help the mill at Grafton get alternative non-rain forest timbers.

Hardwood supplies for the Grafton area will be obtained from outside the Washpool area.

The Washpool forests west of Grafton, except for three areas, will be reserved as a national park.

Cabinet decided that 3,197 hectares of Goonimbar State Forest and 975 hectares of Whian Whian State Forest, north-west of Lismore, will be preserved as the Nightcap National Park.

The Border Ranges National Park will be extended to include Wiangarie, Rosebery and part of Mt Lindesay State Forest. Gradys Creek flora reserve will be included in the park without logging.

The Black Scrub, comprising the western section of the Bellinger River State Forest, will be included in the New England National Park.

Rainforest areas in the Hastings Valley, west of Wauchope, will be added to Werrikimbe National Park and Mt Seaview Nature Reserve.

A decision on another area claimed by conservationists, an extension of the Barrington Tops National Park, has been delayed for further study.

Park Area Increases

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 28 Oct 82 p 3

[Article by Joseph Glascott]

[Text] Revised estimates of the proposed rainforest national parks bring their total area to about 90,000 hectares.

State Cabinet on Tuesday decided to ban logging in most NSW rainforests and incorporate them in national parks.

The rainforests were estimated by conservationists to cover 50,000 hectares.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Parks Association said yesterday the new rainforest parks would be:

Border ranges, 30,000 ha, Washpool, near Grafton, 28,500 ha, Hastings Valley, near Wauchope, 14,700 ha.

Black Scrub, near Bellingen, 6,100 ha.

Nightcap Ranges and Terania 4,500 ha, Dorrigo forest, 4,200 ha, Murray Scrub, near Kyogle, 1,000 ha.

If an area on the Barrington Tops, north of Newcastle, is added this will cover another 25,000 ha.

The National Trust said the decision was a milestone in the history of conservation in NSW.

The president of the trust, Mr Richard Rowe, said the Premier, Mr Wran, the Deputy Premier, Mr Ferguson, and the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Bedford, deserved special congratulations for their efforts.

"It is not true as some have suggested that Cabinet has yielded to a vocal minority."

"The trust represents 30,000 members in NSW.

"An opinion poll conducted for the trust and the Australian Conservation Foundation showed that 69 per cent of the population favoured preservation of the rainforest."

Mr Jim Somerville, vice-chairman of the Colong Committee, who has been involved in the rainforest preservation campaign from the outset, said yesterday:

"When we began the campaign in Sydney in 1975, we had no idea that seven years later all logging in rainforests would cease and that the rainforests would be included in a number of new parks."

The executive director of the NSW Forest Products Association, Mr Keith Jordan, said yesterday Mr Wran had fallen for the propaganda of the preservationist movement that forests cannot survive with logging.

This was totally contrary to commonsense and the principle of multiple use.

"The mythical alternative supplies are simply not there," he said.

CSO: 5000/7513

QUEENSLAND COMMITTEE TO STUDY RADIOACTIVE SAND WASTE

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 19 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by Tony Koch]

[Text] **STATE Cabinet yesterday approved the formation of a special committee to speed investigations into the dumping of radioactive sand in south-east Queensland.**

The Health Minister, Mr Austin, said last night the committee would avoid time-consuming red tape. It will comprise members of the Health, Local Government and Mines Departments.

Mr Austin said Cabinet had rejected any suggestion that the State Government would be liable for any financial compensation to affected householders.

He said: "The Queensland Government has done everything possible to arrest the problem. Charges that it has been remiss cannot be substantiated."

"The Government is faced with a serious problem that has probably been around for 25 years, and attempts to politicise it are reprehensible."

"Any person who feels he might have contaminated sand on his property has only to ring the Health Department with the details and the matter will be investigated without delay."

Quicker job

"The only thing we ask is that before he calls, the caller attempt to find out who supplied the sand, the amount, when it was delivered and, if possible, where it came from."

"If he is able to ascertain those facts, it will certainly make our job much easier and quicker."

Mr Austin said the initial concern was to identify all possible mineral sand processing sites and follow up any distribution of tailings which could contain high radioactivity.

"We are appealing to the public to let us know of any site which could have been used for processing mineral sand in the last 25 years so we can run a check on them."

Mr Austin said it would be "over-dramatising" to say there was any imminent danger to human beings who had contaminated sand in their houseyards, or to young children playing in sandpits.

"For a child to be endangered, he or she would have to spend 15 to 20 years in the contaminated sandpit," Mr Austin said.

"Where we have a real problem is homes where a family with young children might live for many years exposed to high levels of radioactivity."

Queensland spokesman for the Australian Democrats, Mr Mike West, criticised the Government for inaction and accused it of covering up the seriousness of the situation.

Mr West said it was scandalous that the Government was not prepared to "pick up the tab" for the cost of neutralising any areas discovered to contain contaminated sand.

"At the very least, the mining companies should accept responsibility if for no other reason than to gain some respectability in the eyes of the general public which has been hoodwinked into believing it has been buying contamination-free top dressing for years," he said.

'Negligent'

"The Health Department is supposed to oversee the general well-being of Queensland citizens, yet we find here a grossly

negligent act has been occurring for more than 25 years.

"Mr Austin told us 10 months ago that everything was okay in regard to radioactivity in sand and there was nothing to worry about.

"If we cannot believe him, where does that leave us with his assurances on such things as the pesticide 24D, uranium enrichment and so on?" Mr West said.

CSO: 5000/7514

RESEARCH VESSEL DEVELOPED TO MONITOR WATER POLLUTION

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 20 Oct 82 p 17

[Text]

A SQUEAKY-clean 8m vessel launched in Perth yesterday will help provide answers to the grimy problems of water pollution.

The Djinnang II is a research tool developed at a cost of \$350,000 at the University of Western Australia to monitor mixing processes in lakes, reservoirs and oceans.

Its sophisticated equipment will help scientists predict the movement of pollutants, nutrients and biological organisms through bodies of water, providing important data for planning and conservation decisions.

The work has implications for the siting of sewage and water outfalls and recreation areas and for understanding the ecology of water areas. As well, the fundamental research into fluid dynamics has relevance in oceanography, meteorology and limnology — the study of lakes.

The Djinnang II has been built for the Centre for Environmental Fluid Dynamics, one of the 10 centres of

excellence set up at universities and institutes this year. It will also be used by the university's Centre for Water Research — a mission-oriented centre working on solutions to practical problems.

A major advantage of the vessel is that it will allow study of small-scale mixing rather than oceanic effects.

Its sophisticated computer equipment will also give on-the-spot comparison of measurements being taken against earlier predictions. This will allow researchers, for example, to immediately shift the sensors collecting data in order to gain more information about particular processes.

The Djinnang II has three computers interlinked to allow data to be transferred between them. It also has a series of new instruments designed to measure salinity, temperature, velocity and water quality fields.

The vessel will be used for field trips of about 10 days each and will accommodate up to five people.

CSO: 5000/7515

COST OF DROUGHT TO CROPS, HERDS, WATER LEVELS ASSESSED

Situation in Queensland

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 6 Nov 82 p 12

[Text] The Queensland drought had cost about \$160 million in agricultural production losses this year, the Primary Industries Minister, Mr Ahern, said yesterday.

Mr Ahern said that with the official declaration this week of three more drought-stricken shires, 25 percent of the state was officially drought affected.

"The most significant loss is in wheat, where at least \$125 million has been lost," Mr Ahern said.

"The wheat harvest now nearing completion is expected to yield 630,000 tonnes, compared with 1,500,000 tonnes last year.

"In pastoral areas, more than a quarter of the state's beef herd and 30 percent of the sheep flock are in 20 of the drought declared shires," he said.

Stock owners in the shires declared drought-stricken are eligible for federal and state concessions in freight and fodder costs.

The drought is expected to lead to a meat shortage next year. T. A. Fields Pty Ltd marketing manager, Mr Jack Mulherin, said yesterday stock which normally would not be on the market were being killed now.

The drought, affecting many grazing areas of the State, had created a general shortage and producers were selling stock they would usually keep for fattening and sale next year.

Mr Mulherin said the situation was grim, but it was not being felt by the public.

He said: "There is never a domestic shortage of beef in Australia. We only eat half of what we produce."

Effect on Darling River

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 3 Nov 82 p 2

[Article by Vernon Graham]

[Text]

THE flow in the Darling River, the lifeblood of western NSW, has dried to a trickle in the drought-stricken outback.

Several towns which depend on the river for water are facing a hot, dry summer as the drought tightens its grip on south-eastern Australia.

Wilcannia, a small town on the Darling about 160km east of Broken Hill, only has enough water for about 10 weeks more. The town supply is held by a weir on the Darling.

Wilcannia's shire engineer, Mr Ken Courtis, said the river had almost stopped flowing downstream of the town.

He said White Cliffs, an opal mining town about 200km north-east of Broken Hill, was now out of water and supplies would have to be carted by road from Wilcannia.

The small dams which provide water for the 250 residents of White Cliffs had dried up earlier this week.

The NSW Government has been asked to pay the cost of carting water to White Cliffs.

Mr Courtis said the 1300 residents of Wilcannia were extremely concerned about the town's water supplies.

They were facing serious water restrictions even before summer had begun.

Ivanhoe is another western NSW town which is desperately short of water.

Meanwhile, hot dry weather is causing serious alarm across

much of Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and NSW.

Strong winds whipped up dust storms across inland NSW at the weekend and many producers are expecting a devastating summer.

About 90 per cent of NSW is affected by drought and most graziers are handfeeding stock.

Western Australia is the only State enjoying a lush season, although the west Gascoyne and south coast districts are stricken.

Stricken

Most of Victoria is drought-stricken, as are southern and central Queensland and most settled areas of South Australia.

About half of Tasmania desperately needs rain.

Graziers at Cunnamulla, in parched south-western Queensland, want government subsidies to cut mulga trees for their starving stock.

The Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Nixon, so far has rejected the request.

Many Cunnamulla district producers are battling their fourth year of drought.

Mr Marcus Arthur, of Yanakillia, Cunnamulla, said yesterday that the Federal Government's fodder subsidies were of no use to many outback graziers because they could not afford to cart grain and hay over large distances to their remote properties.

Rice, Cotton Declines

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 3 Nov 82 p 2

[Article by Bruce Newton]

[Text] AUSTRALIA'S production of rice and cotton may be cut almost 50 per cent by drought.

NSW produces 90 per cent of the nation's rice and 80 per cent of the cotton but because of restrictions by the NSW Water Resources Board, farmers this summer will be forced to seed smaller areas of both irrigated crops.

The cotton-producing areas in the north-west of the State, from the Macquarie River to the Queensland border, have been the worst hit. Water allocation in the Namoi Valley has been cut to 10 per cent of usual availability.

The Gwydir Valley has 15 per cent of its usual allocation, the Macintyre Valley 30 per cent and the Macquarie Valley 60 per cent.

The rice-producing areas in the south-west, from Griffith to the Victorian border, have been cut to 85 per cent in the Murray Valley and 70 per cent in the Murrumbidgee irrigation area.

Many farmers have already used water usually reserved for rice and cotton on winter crops, so their water reserves are drastically reduced.

Unless rain falls soon many farmers will run out of water by January.

Mrs Patricia Clifton, of the Water Resources Board, said many farms had used their

water allocations early in the hope that rain would fall to help their summer crops.

"I don't think they were being at all irresponsible; every farmer has to gamble," she said.

"In some cases, it was certainly bad planning, but if they hope to get some extra water allocated they won't get it, because there won't be any to give."

Mr Frank Cutting, of the Department of Agriculture, said there had been 30 per cent less planting of cotton this year than last year.

Speculative

"At worst, production may be down by 50 per cent, but that is purely speculative at this stage," he said.

"If there is good rainfall in the first three months of next year then we will still have an excellent season."

"If you've got water in the soil at planting that will carry the seeds through to Christmas. One more watering and you will get some crop."

"But you need more watering to make a good crop."

Rice and cotton farmers will have to decide in December whether to water as much crop as possible and hope for rain or to conserve their water and grow a smaller crop.

CSO: 5000/7519

SOIL CONSERVATION EFFORTS SUFFER FROM LACK OF FUNDS

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 29 Oct 82 p 14

[Article by Geoff Sorby]

[Text]

IT CAN be argued that Australia is blowing away and nobody, particularly the Federal Government, appears to care a damn.

In 1980 a much vaunted national soil conservation program was announced with a special \$3 million dollar grant from the Federal Government.

By 1986 the Government was to have been pumping \$12 million a year to help stop Australia's land degradation.

The program to try and save an estimated 51 per cent of arable land in Australia subjected to soil erosion followed a top level State and Federal Government inquiry released in April 1978.

The national soil conservation program was officially announced in 1980 after the then Minister for national development, Mr Kevin Newman, admitted the previous year that Australia's land resources were in jeopardy.

And so in a classic case of political pork-barrelling the Government announced the start of its conservation program during the 1980 election campaign.

Ruthless

But the program was short lived.

The deft hand of the Committee of Review of Commonwealth Functions, the celebrated "Razor Gang", struck

in April last year, withdrawing the funds.

It recommended, against all advice, that the allowance for soil conservation be built into the tax-sharing base between the States and the Federal Government.

It gave no requirements or guidelines as to how the States were to allocate those general revenue grants.

The results of this ruthless federal action were immediate and far reaching.

State governments, already battling to balance their own budgets, took the only course possible - they cut down on their own conservation programs, reducing money directly available, and even more dangerously, cutting skilled staff in their conservation departments.

These measures were taken despite easily obtained evidence showing just how bad the situation is in Australia.

For every tonne of grain produced, 13 tonnes of topsoil are lost. On the famous Darling Downs in Queensland, soil losses have reached 50 tonnes a hectare in some places.

In Victoria alone there is about 100,000 hectares of land affected by salinity.

And throughout the continent the same story is repeated as wind, water and animals combine with unsuitable land management to cause damage to the long-term stability of the land.

The Federal Labor Party spokesman on primary industry, Mr John Kerin, has described the problem as one of national importance.

With primary industries producing half of Australia's export income and 8 per cent of our gross domestic product, he is right to press the alarm bell.

Says Mr Kerin: "The bottleneck in the system is in the planning, surveying and design of the earth works. There simply aren't enough people doing the work fast enough."

"It is the Commonwealth's function to provide leadership and provide the support for a national program. Land degradation is a national problem."

"The Federal Government cannot simply pass off the management of this resource as a State matter. They certainly don't do that for other national resources such as uranium and petroleum."

States are notorious for their preference for short-term politically-expedient policies. That is well understood. And that should be sufficient to remove any doubts as to whether there is a role for the Federal Government in soil conservation.

But it is the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the ill-fated 1978 federal and State governments' soil conservation study that underlines the vital importance of

soil conservation and gives specific advice on how to at least halt the tidal wave.

The report recommended that soil conservation activity in Australia be intensified, extended and better integrated with rural industry policy and planning for coastal, urban, recreational and mining areas.

Structural adjustment and changing circumstances in rural industries make it necessary and possible for soil conservation to be more effectively incorporated in changed farm management practices and methods.

Land capability issues are of growing importance in coastal, mining and urban planning and development.

Funding

Parallel action is required by governments in research, co-operative planning, institutional changes and more effective liaison and co-ordination. Increased funding is also needed.

Some of the report's main recommendations were:

THE strengthening of farm advisory and extension services so that the general standard of land management practices is improved.

HIGH priority for urgently required works in areas where the cost is relatively small when compared with the anticipated value of rural production, the value of public assets threatened by land degradation, or future costs of control.

REVIEWING the long-term future of agricultural and pastoral activity in arid land and other areas where the value of production is low relative to the necessary costs of soil conservation and where the environment is often fragile.

BETTER integration of policies for soil conservation with those allied activities.

BETTER co-ordination of research and initiation of joint federal-State projects.

IMPROVEMENTS in the collection, analysis and use of land resource information.

The report also said that the Federal Government's active participation with the States was necessary to achieve an adequate level of soil conservation in Australia.

It recommended that the Federal Government provide increased funds to the States for soil conservation.

It was suggested that a system of "matching" grants related to the extra soil conservation expenditure by each State would ensure an expanded effort.

Encouragement would thereby be given to initiatives, in particular States, so that the total expenditure on soil conservation in each State would reflect State priorities, based on perceived need and capacity for action.

Given the magnitude of the outstanding soil conservation task assessed by the study, it would be appropriate to double the level of expenditure (in constant prices) over this initial period.

In this case, total extra funds of some \$20 million a year would be provided at the end of the period, with perhaps half coming from the Federal Government and half from the States.

This increase compares with total soil conservation authority expenditure of some \$18.6 million in 1975-76.

It also said that a co-ordinated program of research related to soil conservation

should be developed by the three federal departments having an interest in soil conservation (i.e. primary industry, national development and environment, housing and community development), the CSIRO and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The report said the roles and functions of each federal department should be more clearly defined. This would facilitate liaison and co-ordination on soil conservation matters at all government levels including local government.

Another recommendation was that the Federal Government support the establishment of a graduate and post-graduate courses in soil conservation at an Australian university or college of advanced education.

VICTORIA MAKES CONTROVERSIAL DECISION ON INDUSTRIAL WASTE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 20 Oct 82 p 5

[Article by Rosslyn Beeby]

[Text] The Minister for Conservation, Mr Walker, will allow Australian Paper Manufacturers to continue to discharge industrial waste into the Gippsland lakes from the Dutson Downs sewage farm.

Mr Walker said the sewage farm's existing waste disposal licence, which places no restriction on the amount of waste discharged to the lakes, would be retained. The ministry did not intend to review the licence conditions, he said.

Mr Walker's decision ignores a recent report calling for urgent renegotiation of the Dutson Downs licence. The report, prepared for his ministry by the Fisheries and Wildlife Division, said APM effluent had killed aquatic plant life and seriously downgraded a large area of the Lake Wellington wetlands.

The report also said the high levels of pollution contravened a Federal Government treaty to protect the habitat of rare migratory birds.

Mr Walker said yesterday he had directed Fisheries and Wildlife to monitor changes in flora and fauna in Lake Coleman to assess the impact of wastes.

The director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Mr Graeme Swartz, said the division had already carried out an intensive

study of Lake Coleman in 1980. A new monitoring programme would amount to "a re-run" of previous reports, he said.

Effluent from the sewage farm flows into the Gippsland lakes via Lake Coleman at the rate of about 15,000 megalitres a year. Industrial waste from APM's Maryvale mill accounts for 19 of the 20 megalitres a day treated at the farm. The waste is highly colored by lignin, a toxic substance which occurs in the cellular structure of wood.

The Dutson Downs waste discharge licence is controlled by the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewage Board, a delegated agency of the Environment Protection Authority.

Mr Walker said he had discussed the farm's licence last week with senior representatives from the Board and the EPA, and was satisfied the Board was complying with EPA licence conditions.

A spokesman for the Conservation Council of Victoria, Mr Peter Rawlinson, said a monitoring programme of the lake's waters and wildlife was "a pointless exercise".

APM has undertaken construction of a \$40 million in-plant treatment system and will stop discharging industrial waste to Dutson Downs in 1987.

Mr Rawlinson said APM's plans to eventually dispense with the Dutson Downs disposal system would not solve pollution caused by the highly colored wastes. The color component in the waste could take between 20 to 40 years to biodegrade, leaving Lake Coleman's waters and surrounding soil heavily discolored, he said.

BOTANY BAY POLLUTED, SAID TO BE 'COLLAPSING' ECOLOGICALLY

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 27 Oct 82 p 2

[Article by Richard Eckersley]

[Text] Man and the sea urchin are destroying Botany Bay. Ecologically, it is collapsing, Dr Tony Larkum of Sydney University believes.

"It's happening — we're seeing it now," he said yesterday.

He forecast that the bay's water would become muddy, its fore-shores would erode. Birds, fish, prawns, shellfish, sponges and other forms of life would suffer.

Dr Larkum estimates the process of collapse will take another five years if the sea urchins are not controlled, or 10 to 20 years if they are.

The reason is the disappearance of the bay's beds of seagrass, particularly the deepwater species, Posidonia. The seagrass binds the sea floor, filters the water, and provides breeding and feeding grounds for estuarine and ocean fish.

Dr Larkum, of the university's School of Biological Sciences, has surveyed the seagrass beds under a grant from the Coastal Council of NSW, advisory body to the NSW Minister for Environment and Planning, Mr Bedford.

Dr Larkum said scientists believed that in the nineteenth century Posidonia covered 70 per cent of Botany Bay's total area of 3,800 hectares — or about 2,700 hectares. Today, 240 hectares remained — less than 10 per cent. And that was half the area which existed 12 years ago.

Dr Larkum said pollution had caused most of the damage. He believes pollutants such as heavy metals, toxic industrial chemicals and oil weaken the seagrass which can then be ripped out by wave action. Sewage and fertilisers encourage algal growth, which smothers the seagrass.

He said environmental reports had underestimated the effects of the increased wave action resulting from the dredging of the bay entrance. Seagrass beds which had been expected to act as a natural buffer and absorb this extra wave energy had instead been destroyed.

Now sea urchins, almost nonexistent in the bay two years ago, were rapidly eating their way through the remaining beds. In about a year, they had cleared an area of 10 to 12 hectares. In some places, there were 100 sea urchins to a square metre.

NSW COUNCILS ASKED TO GIVE TOWN PLANNERS MORE AUTHORITY

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 26 Oct 82 p 12

[Article by Mark Coultan]

[Text] The Department of Environment and Planning has asked NSW councils to reduce delays for development approvals by giving more power to town planners.

The director of the department, Mr Dick Smyth, said he had written to all councils to ask them to approve a delegation of authority to town planners which would short-cut the approval process by at least two months.

Mr Smyth said if the councils approved, he would delegate the department's authority to town planners.

Under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, councils must refer developments to the department to determine if an environmental study is required before a local environment plan is drawn up.

It must also determine if the local plan is consistent with State and Federal Government policies.

Mr Smyth said that only 20 to 30 per cent of the applications processed by his department required an environmental plan or were

inconsistent with government policies.

If all councils agreed to the proposal, about 700 matters each year would be processed about two months earlier.

The delegation of the department's approval was allowed under the Act. If legal action was taken, the department would still be responsible because the town planner would be acting as an officer of the department.

Mr Smyth said that in the case of council officers not acting in a proper manner, he could withdraw his authority at any time.

Mr Smyth's comments were made at the Local Government Association's annual conference in Goulburn, at which the retiring president of the NSW Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, Mr Martyn Chapman, said councils were taking too long to process approvals.

Mr Chapman presented a survey which showed the cost of delaying approval for an average house was \$33 a day.

Waiting for council approval added an average of about \$2,200 to the cost of a house — \$800 more than it should have if the council had granted approval in the required time of 40 days.

Mr Chapman said the limit of 40 days should be lowered for single houses.

The cost of delaying approval for a home unit was estimated at \$23.56 per day. The total cost of waiting for council approval for a home unit varied between \$4,338 and \$7,235.

If an applicant had to appeal to the Land and Environment Court, a further delay of 72 days could be expected, increasing the cost of a building by \$1,696, plus any legal or court costs.

Added to this was \$14.38 per day, the cost of borrowing \$35,000 for land at 15 per cent interest.

There were also other holding charges and rates to pay, which at 8 per cent would cost \$7.67, making a total cost per day of \$33.01.

The Department is waiting for replies from councils. Early indications are that most councils will agree to the delegation of authority, although some may want clear guidelines when it will apply.

Individual councillors and possibly some councils may oppose the suggestion of the grounds it takes away power from the elected aldermen and puts it in the hands of council staff.

PAPER ASSESSES JOBS VS ENVIRONMENT ISSUE IN FORESTRY

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 25 Oct 82 p 6

[Editorial: "Forest Policy"]

[Text] IN THE middle of the NSW Government's deliberations on the contentious matter of logging in the Washpool Forest, it has been confronted by a decision in the Land and Environment Court which, it has been claimed, could be used effectively to stop all logging operations in NSW. On Friday, Justice Cripps ordered that the Forestry Commission and a sawmilling company be restrained from logging in the Goonimbar State Forest until an environmental impact statement had been prepared and considered by the Forestry Commission. The secretary of the NSW Labor Council, Mr Unsworth, has predicted that the decision could lead to the loss of 1,800 jobs in the NSW timber industry. This prediction was endorsed by the executive director of the NSW Forest Products Association, Mr Jordan, who claimed that the decision could lead to the industry losing its economic viability.

At the heart of this issue is the interpretation of Section 112 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act which stipulates that before approval can be given for "an activity that is likely to significantly affect the environment," an environmental impact statement must be prepared, examined and considered in accordance with the Act. In the present case, the judge found that the proposed logging operation would significantly affect the environment. The industry fears that most logging operations could be similarly held to be environmentally significant and that environmental impact statements would

need to be prepared before establishing any logging road. Since several hundred roads or trails are built or extended each month, this would impose a serious financial burden on the industry.

The court's decision did not come as a surprise. Earlier this year the Minister for Forests, Mr Gordon, argued that the Act provided no definition of "significance" and defined "activity" so that the word embraced nearly everything planned or undertaken. He pointed out that, while the Forestry Commission held the view that forestry operations are generally not "significant" in the sense of the Act, "it is possible that ultimately the Land and Environment Court may determine otherwise." That possibility has now become fact.

Justice Cripps acknowledged in his decision that the Act defines "environment" and "activity" in the widest possible terms. He noted also that the test in Section 112 tends to beg the question, "How can a decision be made whether to require an environmental impact statement until it is known how significant the impact of the activity will be?" The manner in which the judge answered that question in this case is obviously grounds for concern for the timber industry. Few would dispute that for major proposals, such as Washpool and the Hastings Valley, an environmental impact statement should be prepared. But what about cases where logging has already occurred or where the proportion of rainforest is small?

If the consequences of the court's decision are as serious as predicted by

the Forest Products Association and the Labor Council, what should be the appropriate response by the Government? One which is favoured by the industry and the Forestry Commission, is to exclude forest operations from the Act. This has also been suggested by the Ombudsman who has expressed concern about the time that can be taken in making decisions on forestry matters. But this is a step which would cause public disquiet. The Forestry Commission has done little to establish public confidence that it would administer such responsibilities in a sensitive manner.

The best course for the Government would be to establish an overall rainforests policy which would enable the industry properly to plan its future. It would also assure conservationists (and this term includes many more than the "Volvo set" derided by Mr Unsworth) that our rainforests will be preserved for the appreciation and enjoyment of future generations. That is what the public is expecting from the Government when it makes its decision on Washpool this week.

CSO: 5000/7519

CHARGE OF FALSE FOREST PROTECTION CLAIMS IN QUEENSLAND

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 1 Nov 82 p 12

[Article by Bill Crd]

[Text] Three conservation groups and the Labor Party have accused the Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, and the National Parks Minister, Mr Elliott, of making false and misleading statements about the protection of Queensland rainforests.

A Queensland Conservation Council project officer, Mr Grahame Wells, said: "Mr Bjelke-Petersen said last week that his Government had protected more than a million hectares of rainforest. Mr Elliott claimed that all rainforest north of Mackay was protected. Both claims are wrong.

"Less than one-quarter of our rainforests has been put into national parks. When will the rest get that protection?"

The Australian Conservation Foundation rainforest co-ordinator, Mr David Allworth, said: "I look forward to the day when the Premier's statement is correct."

The Queensland Rainforest Protection Society secretary, Dr Aila Keto, said: "Only about 223,000 ha of our rainforest has national park protection, the only protection worth having.

"Most of the rest is under the control of the Lands and Forestry Department, which still has wide powers to log or alienate the land. This is hardly the totally protected status people want for rainforests."

The Opposition Leader, Mr Wright, said: "The Premier's 'protection' amounts to no more than putting a meal aside for later consumption."

CSO: 5000/7513

PORT KEMBLA SMELTER PUTTING EXCESSIVE LEAD IN AIR

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 19 Oct 82 p 12

[Article by Richard Eckersley]

[Text] Levels of lead in the air near a smelter in Port Kembla far exceeded the safe air quality standard, according to a report released yesterday.

At one monitoring site, air lead levels reached 10 times the standard.

However, a survey of 398 school children in the area showed that all had blood lead levels within limits set by health authorities.

The blood and air lead levels are reported in a paper in the latest issue of the Medical Journal of Australia. The authors are Dr Ignatius Gan and Dr Gary Schier, respectively director and deputy director of Wollongong Hospital's biochemistry department and Dr Cyril Innis, assistant regional director of the NSW health Commission, Illawarra Region.

The National Health and Medical Research Council has recommended, and the NSW Government has adopted, a maximum air lead level of 1.5 micrograms per cubic metre, averaged over three months.

Readings at three sites near the Electrolytic Refining and Smelting smelter between 1978 and June, 1981, showed that: at Port Kembla Fire Station, about 400 metres from the smelter, average readings over three consecutive months ranged from 1.73 micrograms to 15.93 micrograms; at St Patrick's School, about 800 metres away, they ranged from 0.74 to 3.68; and at the Port Kembla substation, about 2 km away, they ranged from 0.38 to 0.66.

But there was no evidence of an increase in children's blood lead levels, which were comparable with those recorded elsewhere.

The authors suggest this might be because the lead from the smel-

ter was mainly in the form of insoluble inorganic lead compounds. These particles might be breathed into the lungs, but little or nothing would be leached into body fluids and hence contribute to blood lead levels.

The conclude: "Because of the serious toxic effects of lead on human health, and the unknown long-term effects of insoluble lead particulates on health, it is recommended that, for the present, companies with smelting operations should abide by the current lead air quality standard."

ERS is working with the NSW State Pollution Control Commission on a program to reduce lead emissions from the smelter.

The company's general manager, Mr Ken Parkes, said yesterday the company had spent about \$1 million over the past two and a half years to cut pollution, particularly by lead, and air lead levels were dropping.

CSO: 5000/7514

WEST AUSTRALIA ACTS ON TITANIUM PLANT EFFLUENT IN LAPORTE

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Oct 82 p 28

[Text]

THE State Government will buy 316 hectares of extra waste-disposal space as the first step in implementing the recommendations of a long-awaited report on effluent disposal from the Laporte titanium plant.

The freehold land is on the Leschenault Peninsula immediately north of the area where the effluent—acid, sulphates, iron and other metals in solution—is pumped into lagoons.

The report of the Laporte effluent disposal committee, representing about 10 years of study and more than \$500,000 spending by the Government and Laporte Australia Ltd, was tabled in State Parliament yesterday.

It gives the Government and factory owners a set of options and recommendations on the long-term handling of effluent, aiming to avoid pollution in Leschenault Inlet and minimising it elsewhere.

The set of five recommendations has been accepted by the Government.

It also accepts two important conclusions by the committee: That the effluent should be split before disposal: and that at

some stage it will have to be discharged into the ocean through a pipeline.

Discharge

The committee concluded that the options with least damage to the environment all involve ocean discharge combined with on-shore disposal of part of the effluent.

It recommends:

- The start of detailed studies for a marine pipeline with the aim of discharging some of the effluent into the ocean as soon as possible.
- Obtaining the 316 hectares north of the existing disposal area immediately.
- Detailed studies on splitting the effluent into streams.
- Continued field testing to confirm the feasibility of injecting concentrated effluent in bores into the limestone layer underlying the peninsula.
- More study on the visual pollution caused

by iron effluent, which above a certain concentration stains sea water red.

The Government will amend the Laporte Agreement Act to clear the way for buying the land.

It had already commissioned engineering consultants Binnie and Partners to examine the best location, materials and size for an off-shore effluent pipeline.

"The committee has concluded that the most acceptable method of treatment and disposal of effluent, environmentally and economically, was on the sand dunes currently used next to the foreshore," the Minister for Resources, Mr Jones, said.

"However, the area of suitable sands is limited and in the near future other means of disposal will be required."

The Government has accepted that it is necessary to split the effluent into a weak and a strong stream.

The "weak" stream would have 75 per cent of total effluent volume but only five per cent of the iron and 10 per cent of the acid. The strong stream would contain 95 per cent of the iron and 90 per cent of the acid.

If promising results already given by the bore injection method are borne out by further studies, the strong effluent will be disposed of in the limestone layer. The limestone neutralises the acid and the iron is "fixed" in the sand of the dune area.

However, the committee found that, whatever the methods used, the capacity of the peninsula to absorb land disposal will be exhausted by some time after the year 2000.

The Government is looking to the extra 316 hectares of disposal area to give it about 20 years' grace for land disposal from about 1987.

Mr Jones said that the earliest possible date for ocean discharge to start would be 1986.

The committee ruled out barging effluent from the factory to the edge of the continental shelf 90km away as being uneconomical. It also found that chemical neutralisation of the effluent on land was not a practical method with the options available today.

CSO: 5000/7518

POOR WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BAR TO ECONOMIC GROWTH

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 5 Nov 82 p 3

[Article by John Stanton]

[Text] **LACK** of good management of water resources is threatening to retard economic growth, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, said yesterday.

Addressing a Save the Murray Campaign luncheon in Adelaide, Mr Anthony stressed the need for State governments to cast aside "lethargic" attitudes towards water management.

"Water will ultimately set the limits to the growth of our nation," Mr Anthony said.

Water management, in one of the driest countries in the world, was a vital task and one that had been "far too often neglected", Mr Anthony said.

But there was evidence that, especially in view of the crippling effects of the present drought, availability of water was now being viewed as a major constraint.

The problems of water supply and quality were no more clearly demonstrated than on the Murray River, where multi-million dollar programs were being undertaken to reduce salinity levels threatening agriculture in many districts.

Mr Anthony said recent winter inflows to the Hume Reservoir on the NSW-Victoria border were close to the lowest recorded.

"This has serious implications for salinity management during the current season," he said.

Mr Anthony praised the re-

cent negotiation by the governments of Victoria, NSW and South Australia of a new River Murray Waters Agreement.

This was the first major review of the agreement since it was first assigned in 1914 and represented a major step in efforts to overcome salinity problems in parts of the river.

Mr Anthony ruled out the possibility of a national water authority being set up to manage the Murray-Darling system and its tributaries in four States. This was because water quality was the end result of a wide range of activities which took place in the system's huge catchment area.

Irrigation

These which included irrigation, dry land agriculture, forestry and urban and industrial development and were primarily the responsibilities of State governments.

Mr Anthony said: "Although a national water authority may be desirable, the realities of the Australian Constitution, I believe, make it unachievable."

But there was reason to believe the same objectives envisaged for a national water authority could be achieved within the framework of the new agreement.

He said it was impossible to accurately estimate how long it would take the rural sector to recover from the drought, once it broke.

RIVER AUTHORITY IN WA ATTACKS SEPTIC WASTE DUMPING

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 5 Nov 82 p 17

[Text]

THE illegal dumping of septic waste into stormwater drains on the Swan and Canning Rivers is worrying the Swan River Management Authority.

In the Waterways Commissioner's annual report tabled in State Parliament yesterday, the authority said that in the past financial year a number of workshops had discharged effluent into the drains.

The effluent had contained petrochemicals and other pollutants. Fifteen cases, where no licence was issued for the discharge of treated effluent, had been investigated and stopped.

Copper

The report also expressed concern at the input of chromium, copper and zinc into

the Swan River Estuary and the low tidal reaches of the Murray River.

Other sections dealt with the Peel Inlet Management Authority and the Leschenault Management Authority.

The Minister for Conservation and Environment, Mr Laurance, yesterday detailed amendments to the Waterways Commission Act to bring canals under the control of management authorities.

He told the Legislative Assembly that the Peel Inlet authority did not have jurisdiction over two canals which had been constructed adjacent to the authority's waterways.

The amendment was in line with recommendations for the development of canal estates adopted by the

State Cabinet in August last year.

By laws were proposed so that the Swan River Management Authority could stop vessels disposing sewage directly into the river.

The Government had installed pump-out facilities at the Barrack Street jetty but vessel operators were not obliged to use the equipment.

Under current legislation it could be difficult for the authority to prove that a vessel had disposed of sewage directly into the river, Mr Laurance said.

The debate was adjourned.

CSO: 5000/7520

BRIEFS

STATE FOREST ISSUE--Pomona.--Conservationists will hold a funeral service here next Sunday for the Yurol and Ringtail State Forests. The two forests, which occupy a total of 3400 ha of mainly native bush, are between Pomona and Lake Cootharaba. More than half the bush has been condemned by the Forestry Department which has decided to clearfell and burn it to make way for plantings of exotic pines. On Sunday hundreds of conservationists will watch Mr Bill Hollis' bullock team haul a felled native tree, draped in black, out of the Yurol forest and back to Pomona where the last rites will be held. The cortege will be piped there by the Gympie Caledonian Band. Mourners will include members of the Cooloola Region Forests and Parks Association, the Noosa Shire Council, the Australian Littoral Society and the Noosa Parks Association, all of which have pleaded unsuccessfully with the Lands Minister, Mr Glasson, to reverse his department's decision. "We don't want them to be planted in some foreign trees that wouldn't give a feed to a sick bandicoot or a moulting parrot." The conservationists' leader, Mr Tos Barnett, farmer, lawyer, Noosa Shire councillor and former constitutional adviser to the Papua New Guinea Government, said yesterday: "We don't mind the forests being logged for normal commercial purposes. We don't want them destroyed for the sake of planting exotic softwoods that are going to be a drug on the market in 20 years. [By Bill Ord] [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 19 Oct 82 p 10]

WA SALINITY--WA is by far the worst-affected State for farmland salinity, according to a national report. This State has 264,000 hectares of agricultural land affected, while Victoria has 90,000 and South Australia 55,000. It is estimated that 4.2 million ha of Australia has been affected by salt since settlement, with 90 per cent of the area being salt scalded pastoral country. The report is for the committee on soil conservation. It is the first attempt to look at salinity on an Australian basis and will be used as a guide for State and Federal Government action. In agricultural areas, it is estimated that there has been a fall in farm capital value of \$135 million, with an annual decline in productivity of \$16 million. By the year 2000, the decline in capital value will reach \$220 million. The report says there is a need to define more closely the effect of current land use on ground-water salinity and the relationship of soil, land use and salt in agricultural areas. It recommends methods of accurately assessing salt-land areas, instead of relying on farmer memory, and the identification in WA particularly of recharge areas--where water has not been used by

plants and causes build-up in ground water at lower land levels. The report also called for investigation of the varieties of plants to increase water use. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 21 Oct 82 p 32]

EPA ON CANAL PROJECT--Mandurah conservationists have welcomed the Environmental Protection Authority's thumbsdown on the proposed Sun Land canal project at South Yunderup. The EPA has reported to the WA Government that the project is environmentally unacceptable because of its effects on water quality. The authority says that the lower reaches of the Murray and Serpentine Rivers are unsuitable for canal developments. The president of the Peel-Preston Preservation Group, Mr Len Howard, said that the EPA's findings were in line with submissions from his groups opposing canal developments. "We hope that the huge canal-type developments planned for the Mandurah channel entrance get similar recommendations from the EPA," he said. Mr Howard said that further development of fragile wetland areas should be delayed at least till a State or national conservation strategy was completed. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Oct 82 p 20]

CSO: 5000/7515

ENERGY MINISTER OPENS ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOP

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Nov 82 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Air-Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, DCMLA and Minister for Energy on Monday urged mediamen to make people aware of the need to keep the environment pollution-free.

Inaugurating a 5-day workshop on "Environmental reporting" the DCMLA said the government efforts in this regard would not suffice, for in a third world country like Bangladesh, ignorance of the people was responsible for environmental hazards to a great extent.

The 5-day workshop has been jointly sponsored by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and The Press Institute of Bangladesh. Seventeen reporters from newspapers, radio and television are participating in it.

Presided over by PIB Chairman Mr Abdul Wahab, the inaugural function was also addressed by Information Secretary Mr A. B. M. Ghulam Mostafa and Dr Kazi F. Jalal, Chief of the Environmental Coordinating Unit, office of the Executive Secretary, ESCAP.

Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud said environment was being polluted at an alarming pace at a time when human civilization and progress at its peak. The problem was becoming acute in the developing country too, he said.

He said that poverty was not the only factor that led to the

problem of environmental pollution in the developing countries. There was a lack of awareness about it. High rate of population growth, inadequate employment opportunities were other factors. Bangladesh population is estimated to reach 20 crore mark by the next century, and it could be easily understood what dangerous impact would there be on the environment if we were not cautious right now, the DCMLA said.

Listing the factors like newer scientific experiments, smokes from chimneys of factories, careless use of louder horns by auto-vehicle drivers, unsch- entific waste disposal, salinity which interfered with the environment and shattered ecological balance, the DCMLA called for united efforts to find out ways for protecting the natural atmosphere.

The DCMLA said that Bangladesh with its limited resources was continuing efforts to get rid of the problem of environmental pollution. The environmental pollution board had been established, and the "Forest Act" had been passed to protect the forest resources, and to continue afforestation.

Mr. A. B. M. Ghulam Mostafa said that unplanned use of limited natural resources shattered the ecological balance. Time had come that we should pay adequate attention to protect the environment, he said.

The Information Secretary emphasised the need for general awareness among the people for the purpose, and said that the mass media could utilise their resources to bring about such awareness.

He hoped that the participants at the workshop would enormously benefit from the 5-day deliberations, and engage themselves in efficient environmental reporting.

Earlier, in his keynote address Dr. Kazi F. Jalal explained the various aspects of the concern for environment and said that the major environmental problems in the ESCAP region were deforestation, desertification and damage to the aquatic environment that were continuing at unprecedented rates at recent times.

In his presidential address PIB Chairman, Mr. Abdul Wahab said that before going for protecting the environment we should know and love it. He said that the developing countries could learn from the bad effects of unplanned urbanisation and industrialisation in the developed countries.

Emphasising the need for a total approach in this regard the PIB Chairman pointed out that if deforestation was to be avoided, the vast majority of the people who depended on cheap fuel wood for energy should be provided with alternative cheaper energy.

GANGES DIVERSION ENDANGERS BANGLADESH ECOLOGY

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 7 Nov 82 p 3

[Text]

Hilsa, the most delicious as well as the most commercially exploited fish of Bangladesh is now facing gradual extinction due to the upstream diversion of the Ganges water to India.

A recent study carried out by experts on the effect of the unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water on the fishery of Bangladesh revealed that Hilsa, which must ascend the river Ganges and its tributaries in the Monsoon (June to September) for breeding purposes is worst hit.

In the absence of hydrological factors that used to stimulate spawning migration, the spawning population is not ascending the river Ganges in the same extent and in the number as in the past.

Similarly, the winter migration of Hilsa, which is mainly for the purpose of grazing has also undergone drastic change due to ecological disruption caused by the lesser discharge of

water and lesser amount of sediment in the water.

These changes have resulted in lesser production of Hilsa which is evident from the decline in the landing of the species at Chittagong, Chandpur, Comilla and four railway stations in Faridpur.

It is learnt that the change in the water regime in the lower reaches of the Ganges has substantially disrupted the ecology of water influencing feeding, reproduction, spawning behavior of various fish and prawn population living in the gangetic water system below the Farakka barrage.

It may be mentioned here that a decline trend has been observed to catch Hilsa fish in one-time famous Minkur-Jafarabad fishery in the Ganges at Rajshahi district. An extremely low quantity of hilsa is being caught there during July to September when the Padma

receives sufficient flood water from upstream and surrounding catchment areas.

A part of Sunderbans, where a substantial quantity of hilsa fish used to be caught, because of the nutrients carried by the Ganges and its tributaries and by the cross current of sea, has also been severely hit by the withdrawal of the Ganges water.

The hydrological and hydrobiological changes caused by the Farakka Barrage has not only affected the Hilsa fishery but also all other species of fish and prawns inhabiting the Ganges water system that flows through Bangladesh.

It may be recalled here that the Gangetic water system in Bangladesh supports population of over 200 species of fresh water fish and 18 species of prawns.

EFFECTS OF MINERAL EXPLOITATION ON ECOSYSTEM NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Nov 82 p 5

[Text]

VARANASI, Nov 16 (PTI)—The mineral exploitation programme in the 'Dun' valley has adversely affected the ecosystem of the region, the fourth geological congress here has been told.

The 'unscrupulous' mining of limestone and gypsum and lime processing plants have severely damaged the environment Dr R C Mishra said in his paper presented at the congress last Friday.

Dr Mishra, president of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun said the lime kilns located within the residential area produced toxic gases and smoke polluting the surroundings.

The kilns, situated along the banks of river 'Bisnana', also polluted the water during rainy season, he said.

Dr Mishra, an eminent geologist, said that a major portion occupied by the limestone solution in water created numerous cavities and caverns, weakening the region.

Furthermore almost all the roads leading to various quarries and kilns are non-metalled, hence the ramshackle vehicles

continuously plying on the tract, caused constant 'dust pollution' and noise pollution, Dr Mishra pointed out.

Dr Mishra said the mining also caused environmental degradation, mostly pertaining to deforestation, causing climatic changes, landslides or slope failures.

The 'Dun' valley which has tremendous potential of mineral water, soil resources and useful plants, was highly prosperous to feed the regional requirements of both the hilly and plain areas, Dr Mishra added.

He said, although 60 per cent area of 'Dun' valley was covered with forests, a few trees, herbs and shrubs of economical and medicinal importance, were now left in the region because of deforestation.

The mining operations have caused extensive waste lands and bare hills around the beautiful 'Sahastradhara' tourist resort, Dr Mishra added.

The 'Sahastradhara' spring water has been found similar in composition to that of Tatraquelle (Germany) and the White Sulphur Spring (US) and is still used for the cure of many skin diseases, Dr Mishra pointed out.

CSO: 5000/7011

ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY PROPOSED TO REPLACE COMMISSION

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 29 Oct 82 p 3

[Text]

A ministry for the environment and a commercial forestry commission are among solutions to a "confused" and "fragmented" environmental management proposed by a coalition of conservation and outdoor recreation groups.

"Environmental Management in New Zealand: A Strategy" urges the Government to implement many of the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's 1981 report on New Zealand environmental policies.

Despite the depth of this review, public submissions and a subsequent review by the Government-appointed Environmental Council, the Government had failed to implement any of the proposals according to the strategy released in Wellington last night.

Prepared by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Federated Mountain Clubs, the Native Forests Action Council, Environmental Defence Society and environment and conservation organisations, it stresses the importance of strong environmental management as the pace of development increases.

A ministry for the environment would replace the Commission for the Environment and absorb the environmental functions of other departments such as the Ministry of Works and Development's water and soil division, town and country planning and the maritime planning division of the Ministry of Transport.

The strategy also seeks a nature conservancy incorporating the wildlife service and with responsibility for the natural lands of the Crown.

A forestry commission would be divorced from the other two agencies and administer commercial exotic forestry.

The Environmental Defence Society spokesman, Mr Gary Taylor, told the "Post" that commercial forestry must be separated from conservation before the present forests/lands merger was implemented.

The strengthening of the independent public interest and advisory roles of the Nature Conservation Council and Environmental Council is advocated as is the appointment of an ombudsman-like auditor of environmental impact reports.

The National Parks and Reserves Authority should also be retained and not compromised by amalgamation with groups responsible for commercial production, as in the proposed lands/forests merger.

Government submissions to the Environmental Council review of the OECD report had admitted environmental management was "fragmented" and "confused," said the strategy.

There is a clear and urgent need for substantial reform of the system to ensure the largely unspoiled environment we can still enjoy in New Zealand is not further degraded.

There are growing signs that the machinery of the Government is unable to meet the demands of the eighties, the strategy said.

BEACH EROSION POSES THREAT TO TOURIST INDUSTRY

West Coast Situation

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 5 Nov 82 p 1

[Text] Hoteliers along Barbados' west and south coasts, fighting for survival as a result of the international recession and its consequential fall-off in visitor arrivals, now have to deal with a renewed problem--beach erosion.

The beaches have been one of the island's main selling points for decades but a number of factors are slowly arising--not least among them erection of groynes--to threaten further existence of "long, white sandy beaches."

Only last Tuesday beach erosion brought down two machineel trees on the property of St James Beach Hotel, caused massive loss of life to small fish and crustacean in the area.

According to manager of the hotel, Mr Mikhail Shamkin, one of the trees fell about 4 p.m. on Tuesday while the other succumbed about 10 p.m. the same day.

He said the hotel had applied for planning permission to build a retaining wall some time ago but was still awaiting word from the authorities.

Mr Shamkin also pointed out that during the 14 months the property had been standing, no less than 24 ft of beach land had been eroded and he was very fearful of losing another 10 trees--which had the majority of their roots exposed--when the upcoming rough November tides lashed his beach front.

Up to late yesterday afternoon scores of sea urchins and small fish could still be seen dotting the small areas of sand which was left as the tide receded.

At first it was thought that the fish may have been dynamited but later two Paynes Bay fishermen, Aubrey Fenty and Kenneth Alleyne ruled this out saying that they were poisoned by the machineel.

The fishermen, with more than 40 years experience behind them, related that in their younger days they often used manchineel to blind fish so that they were easily caught.

A check with Bellairs Research Institute of McGill University verified that manchineel could adversely affect sea life. The Institute also sent two researchers, Heather Kaye and Mitch Sisak to investigate and collect water samples.

Later at the Institute, Director Dr Wayne Hunte explained that hydrochloric acid from the manchineel resulted in an increase in acidity in the immediate vicinity of the fallen trees, and that this reduced acidity would be particularly toxic to those organisms with limited mobility such as sea urchins, benthic in-shore fish and smaller fish and crustacean species.

Observations from the fishermen and the researchers on the spot verified that these were the species that suffered heaviest mortality.

Analysis of the water samples taken about 12 hours after the incident showed that acidity values had already returned to near normal, presumably because of the flushing effects of the tides.

During this time of year several hotels along the west and south coasts usually lose several feet of their beach front and some have sought to arrest this problem by building groynes.

But botanists and geologists feel that the indiscriminate building of groynes only served to pass the problem from one property to another further north or south of where the groyne is built.

Slam at Property Owners

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 9 Nov 82 p 20

[Text] Many of the hoteliers and private property owners along Barbados' plush west coast are responsible for or have contributed to much of the beach erosion with which they are now faced.

So said Minister of Housing and Lands, Delisle Bradshaw, while responding to yesterday's NATION report that many private property owners and hoteliers were losing thousands of dollars as a result of beach erosion.

Bradshaw claimed that some West Coast hotels had tampered with the reef there while others had failed to monitor the groyne which they received permission to construct.

The minister pointed out that he had only recently visited the west coast, along with officials from his ministry, the Chief Town Planner, the chairman and officials from the Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) and special consultant, Dr Gill Cambers, and had seen all the properties involved.

He added that he had solicited the view and recommendations of the consultants and had talked to nearly all the property owners who had requested permission to put down boulders or gabions to protect their properties.

He pointed out that at the time he made it clear that before permission was granted the request would have to be studied so that the problem could be remedied once and for all.

Bradshaw said: "It was discovered that some of these very people have illegally built too near the beach, contrary to the advice of the Chief Town Planner and, secondly, they have without any permission, put down boulders in an effort to protect their properties. These structures have added to their own problems and have caused problems to adjacent properties."

He noted that his ministry had not refused to grant permission, but, in the light of an Inter-American Development Bank study to be conducted early next year, it had to take into consideration the implications of all reports and recommendations which could come from the study.

The minister added: "The ministry is presently considering staff proposals as a prerequisite for the start of the study which should be early in the new year."

He added that in the meantime, officials at Golden Palm had been told to remove part of their groyne so that some of the sand accumulated to the north would filter south of the structure creating beach. He said this would make it a "permeable groyne."

Bradshaw concluded: "I am appealing to all hoteliers and property owners to wait until proper recommendations and advice are given so we can plan an orderly correction of the situation."

Residents' Response

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 12 Nov 82 p 32

[Text] Private property owners along the St James coast of Barbados have responded to statements by the Minister of Housing and Lands by saying that they were forced to drop boulders in the sea to protect their properties.

Minister Delisle Bradshaw said last Monday that a number of property owners had illegally dumped boulders into the sea and were responsible for, or contributed to much of the erosion now taking place there.

The owners, however, said they had sought permission from the Town and Country Planning Department to put boulders in the sea in front of their properties when the beach erosion escalated, but they had been refused.

The property owners blamed the erosion on the construction of a groyne below Sunset Crest and not on their putting boulders in the sea.

Bradshaw on Monday said that the hotel which had constructed this groyne had failed to monitor it as had been stipulated. He said that as a result the hotel had been ordered to open a section of the groyne so that the build-up of sand could flow southward in its natural pattern, restoring some of the lost beach.

CSO: 5000/7516

BRIEFS

COASTLINE EROSION--Experts say the geology of Tobago suggests that the island is tilting gradually from northwest to southeast and there is a noticeable increase in erosion along the southeastern coastline to support that view. One of the projects now being considered to save the coastline is the construction of a promenade along Milford Road from Orange Hill Junction to West of Jubilee Bridge near Red Rock Bar. Apart from providing coastal protection, other benefits from the promenade will include: A lift in elevation of the road to help in drainage; a bigger carriageway; Provision of more car parking facilities along the road to enhance the commercial outlook; Provision of relaxing benches, the area, trees and lighting. The promenade design has already been prepared and according to a reliable source the project should start early next year if funds are approved. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Nov 82 p 6]

CSO: 5000/7517

BRIEFS

ANTI-TSETSE SPRAYING--Maun--Anti-tsetse fly spraying in Botswana's Okavango Swamps has reached such an advanced stage that ecologists fear the swamps may be reduced to a desert in 20 years. Two more dangers--the possibility of cattle grazing in the delta when the fly has been eradicated and increased demands on the delta's water for development purposes--may accelerate the destruction, conservationists fear. Botswana government officials have denied claims that the two chemicals used to kill the fly are slowly poisoning the swamps. "We are killing fish in limited numbers but it looks like less than one percent. There is no permanent environmental damage," said Dr Jeff Bowles, head of the Tsetse Fly Control Division in Maun. He estimated the fly could be wiped out in the delta in two to three years. His claims were disputed by a leading Botswana conservationist who said: "Significant numbers of fish are dying." [Text] [Johannesburg THE STAR in English 15 Nov 82 p 1]

CSO: 5000/50

GERMAN GOVERNMENT TO REHABILITATE MONROVIA SEWAGE LINES

Monrovia DAILY OBSERVER in English 11 Nov 82 p 2

[Excerpt]

The management of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) has disclosed that all sewage lines in the Monrovia area would be rehabilitated very shortly.

Over the years, sewage systems in the capital and suburbs like New Krutown, Paynesville and Logan Town have not adequately served their purpose well because of misuse and old age.

In an interview Tuesday, the new Managing Director of the LWSC, Mr. Francis F. Broh, revealed that his corporation has concluded a \$3.4 million agreement with the German government to alleviate the situation.

When the project, expected to start during the dry season, is completed, Mr. Broh said, inhabitants of the areas mentioned would be able to enjoy good sanitary facilities.

"The money is available and we are only waiting for the ap-

propriate time to begin, Mr. Broh said.

The Water and Sewer boss blamed the deplorable condition of sewage systems in the country on a number of factors, including the unauthorized connection of sanitary sewage to ordinary drainage systems.

He explained that some people are in the habit of joining both lines, thereby making it very difficult for the LWSC to locate them and have them reactivated.

Mr. Broh also blamed individuals who dump waste materials and bodies in sewage systems for being responsible for the unwholesome condition of sewage lines in the country.

He noted that his corporation will do everything to ensure that sanitary and drainage systems are separated from each other and that individuals desist from using cloths and other hard materials in the sewage lines.

CSO: 5000/46

BRIEFS

DROUGHT 'CROPS' PARK ANIMALS--Many animals died at Mlilwane and Hlane Game Parks during the recent drought. But fortunately the parks were already overstocked and the overall effect was that of a "weeding out" process, warden Ted Reilly told The Times yesterday. Despite this, he said, Hlane was still overpopulated and he suggested that the best way to solve the problem as to "sell the meat to the public." Many of the surviving animals were very thin and weak, he said. Mr Reilly said Mlilwane had about 1,000 animals and Hlane more than 10,000 but the drought had reduced the numbers considerably. He added that Hlane in particular had been overstocked and that the drought had helped solve the problem. "The drought has been a good selective factor and has helped sort out the weak from the strong ones," said Mr Reilly. Mr Reilly condemned the increase in poaching in the country. "Poaching is never selective and people shoot anything they see," he said. He suggested that the anti-poaching laws were too old, having been made more than 30 years ago. "While they were good for that time they are not good for the present increasing number of poachers," he said. The drought did have one positive effect--for tourists visiting the reserves. The drought had dried up all the waterholes and the animals had to come to one collective spot to drink. [Text] [Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 17 Nov 82 pp 1, 16]

CSO: 5000/48

EXTENT OF DROUGHT DAMAGE ESTIMATED

Harare THE HERALD in English 19 Nov 82 p 14

[Text]

THE Ministry of Agriculture has estimated that last season's drought could have claimed communal livestock worth more than \$30 million.

Minister Norman said this in Harare last Friday while presenting prizes for the National Breeder and Carcase Competition held during the past show circuit.

The toll indicated that the Cattle Rescue Operation mounted to avoid the loss had not had the full desired results.

Senator Norman said the tragic drought had shown communal stocking rates to be too high and the need for reduction through sales. Efforts would now have to be made to replace the loss.

Thanking the 36 breeders who had taken part in the competition, Senator Norman called on show societies to help communal farmers improve their livestock quality by introducing competitions or classes specifically for them.

SUGGESTIONS

In the event of the exercise taking off, the Cold Storage Commission could set aside half its total show sponsorship for such competitions.

It could also be the case that shows could be introduced in communal areas where there was enough interest.

"Suggestions and ideas in this regard will be most welcome from both the societies and the National Farmers' Association of Zimbabwe," said the senator.

He presented the CSC floating trophy and \$1 000 to Marondera farmer Robin McIntosh who scooped the top prize in the breeder competition.

A tie in the second place resulted in the Irvine Day Old Chicks firm of Harare equally sharing the \$500 prize with Mr George Moorcroft, of Mberengwa.

In the carcass competition, \$1 000 for the champion group carcasses went to Mr D. O'Donovan, of Komani Estates, together with the Reg Calmeyer Perpetual Silver Salver.

The outgoing CSC general manager, Mr Don Collen, said although entries had been a little disappointing, the quality had been exceptional.

While a firm basis had been set for better future competitions, Mr Collen added: "We shall have to produce heavier and younger beef from the commercial sector while

encouraging and increasing the offtake from the communal herd to ensure enough beef for both the local market and the lucrative European Economic Community market."

At each of the large-scale commercial agricultural show where the national breeder competition would be held, the commission offers \$250 for the winner, and \$100 for the runner-up of an entry of six steers and five heifers or cows.

CHANGES

The producer of the overall national best group of steers and heifers receives \$1 000 and the runner-up \$500.

Meanwhile, changes to the \$5 250 breeder competition for the next show circuit have been announced.

There would be a maximum 100 points for the entry of six steers with no more than four permanent incisors, and five heifers or cows with no more than six permanent incisors.

It has also been recommended that females be presented in the normal breeding condition. Both steers and females would be jointly considered and judged according to factors reflecting good management.

Carcasses of the six steers would be judged after they had been chilled for at least 12 hours. Only carcasses with an A fleshing index and Class 1 or 2 fat cover would be eligible while bruised carcasses would be disqualified.

MAXIMUM

Only carcasses over 210 kg hot dressed mass would be eligible for this competition. A maximum 10 points would be awarded to carcasses with a hot dressing mass of over 235 kg and points would be deducted for carcasses less than 235 kg.

Maximum points would be awarded for carcasses with 6 to 8 mm of fat thickness over the eye muscle fat, and more overfat carcasses would be heavily penalised, while carcasses with more than 15 mm fat would be disqualified.

The eye muscle area would be measured in square centimetres and points awarded according to an agreed scale allowing for differences in carcass mass.

Among the judges would be Ministry of Agricultural specialists: Dr Mike Gammon, Mr H. Barret and Mr C. Burness.

CSO: 5000/50

ZIMBABWE

BRIEFS

RAIN THREATENS CROPS--Eighty percent of Zimbabwe's crops are being threatened by the late coming of rain. A fortnightly crop report of the Department of Agricultural, Technical and Extension Services issued today carries this assertion and says only about 20 percent of crops are in a fair to good condition due to the delayed rainfall. The report also says water supplies are running low in several areas of the country. [MB061918 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 6 Dec 82]

CS0: 5000/51

PCB PROBLEM FOUND TO BE WIDESPREAD THROUGHOUT FINLAND

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 13 Nov 82 p 19

[Article: "Rescue Division Issues New Instructions for Accidents; PCB Is a Poison Common in Electrical Equipment"]

[Excerpt] Doctor of medicine and surgery, Harri Vainio, is director of the Labor Hygiene and Toxicology Section of the Labor Health Establishment, and lecturer in physiology at Turku University. Electrical equipment containing PCB has frequently been involved in recent disastrous explosions in Finland and abroad. In addition to the PCB released thereby, these accidents are also capable of generating other extremely poisonous substances against which protection is vital.

More than 100,000 electrical condensers exist in Finland, and accidental explosions have revealed the dangers that they present. The fire-fighting and work safety personnel of industrial and real estate establishments need to attach special attention to the placement and condition of equipment that contains PCB in order to avoid future accidents.

Condensers and Transformers

The use of PCB compounds was begun in 1929 as coolants in transformers and as electrical insulators in condensers. The Oy Nokia Ab firm has manufactured about 100,000 condensers containing PCB for use in Finland. In addition, certain other electrical-equipment suppliers have furnished smaller quantities of condensers for use in Finland.

Electrical condensers are used in nearly all the largest development complexes, including those used for housing. The amount of PCB contained in the condensers varies, but it has been estimated at 1,000 tons.

PCB has not been used in condensers manufactured in Finland since 1978. The Oy Stromberg Ab firm supplied about 250 transformers containing PCB to Finland during the period from 1957 to 1977. The transformers generally bear a marking indicating the transformer fluid used (the trade names include Askaral, Clophen, Aroclor, Kaneclor to indicate PCB).

PCB Compounds in Nature

At the end of the 1960's it was indisputably demonstrated that PCB can be found almost through all living nature, including fish, birds, and seals in the Baltic Sea. However, PCB substances have never been knowingly discharged into the environment in the same way as pesticides, for example. They have found their way into the environment through evaporation of various compounds, unauthorized disposal, container dumping into the sea, and burial at dumping sites.

It is estimated in the United States that about on half of the PCB compounds that have been manufactured are still in use in electrical equipment, and that less than 4 percent of all the PCB compounds have been disposed of properly.

In Finalnd disposition of PCB wastes accumulating in condensers, for example, has been sought through shipment abroad for disposal. Shipment abroad has not always been successful, however, as the incidents of summer 1982 demonstrated.

PCB concentrations at the same levels as of DDT, another common environmental poison, have been detected in the fatty tissues of humans. Human mother's milk is also known to contain PCB substances.

Toxicity of PCB Compounds

PCB compounds were the cause of a catastrophic poisoning incident in Japan in 1968 in which more than a thousand persons became ill after eating contaminated rice.

The most obvious symptoms in the afflicted were vision disturbances, chlorifine illness, diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pains, swelling in the extremities, and eye inflammation. There was a rise in blood lipoids, disturbance in the functioning of the adrenals and of ovaries, and the immunological defense mechanisms of the system became disturbed. The PCB that contaminated the rice contained impurities, including polychlorated dibenzofuranes.

PCB compounds have caused cancer in experimental animals. According to the interpretation of the Cancer Research Center of the WHO, PCB compounds must be considered capable of causing cancer in humans as well, although undeniable proof based on population studies is lacking.

PCDD and PCDF are broad groups of substances which, particularly after the Seveson dioxine accident, have received a great deal of attention. Some of the PCDD and PCDF derivatives, especially the so-called 2,3,7,8-isomers, are extremely poisonous. For instance, 2,3,7,8-tetrachlordibenzodioxine at this time is the most poisonous chemical synthesized by man.

The poisonous effects of PCDD and PCDF are complex. They may cause chlorifine illness, thickening of the skin (hyperkeratosis), liver damage, weakening of immune resistance, changes in the psyche, and disturbances in the metabolism of fats. Both PCDD and PCDF cause also malformations and cancer in experimental animals.

Accident Situation in Finland and Elsewhere

During autumn 1982 several incidents of condenser explosions in which the PCB was subjected to high temperatures have come to the fore. In addition to the gasification and dispersal of PCB compounds at temperatures at which explosions and fires occur, there is also formation of extremely poisonous "impurities." These "superpoisons" include chlorated dibenzodioxines, dibenzofuranes, and biphenyls.

Transformer fires and condenser explosions have previously been depicted as happening, for instances, in Sweden and the United States. The traces of a condenser fire that took place in Stockholm in August 1981 are still being cleaned up. An entire office building in the United States still remains unoccupied following a transformer fire in February 1981.

The areas of accidents have been mapped by measuring the amounts of PCB substances contained, and by determining the amounts of chlorated "superpoisons." The amounts contained in Finland have been noted as of the same level, or smaller, than those reported abroad.

Avoiding PCB Risks

Deplorably, good methods gauging the condition of condensers do not exist. The risk of accidents certainly decreases if overloading of condensers is avoided and if proper maintenance is observed. The possibility of accidents can be decreased by preventing leakages of PCB compounds, which also prevents the contamination of building interiors.

A letter from the Rescue Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs dated in October 1982 gives instructions to fire and rescue officials in the event of a PCB accident. The instructions advise development complexes and industrial establishments to record the locations of their electrical equipment that contains PCB, which information is to be indicated also in the rescue and fire-fighting plans.

When an accident occurs in which PCB compounds have been subjected to high temperatures, the personnel must immediately be evacuated from the contaminated areas, the areas are to be closed off, and exchange of air into other, uncontaminated, areas must be prevented. The fire and work safety authorities must immediately be informed of the accident.

5955

CSO: 5000/2518

'CLOUD' POLLUTION DATA SHOW WORSENING SITUATION

Athens AKROPOLIS in Greek 28 Oct 82 p 10

[Text] Once again, the cloud over the center of Athens has been spreading its poison. The pollution of the last 2 days has been unprecedented--especially that of carbon monoxide and smoke, which gave values 800 percent higher than the internationally permitted limits! And the atmosphere of the capital was so hazy from the smog, and so many Athenians were forced to seek first aid because of heart and breathing problems that even the "relaxed" YKhOP [Ministry of Regional Planning and Development] itself was compelled to state: "The cloud pollution levels were in a very high range." And later on in the ministry's press bulletin pollution values are recorded higher even than those given by the measurements of the Panhellenic Center for Ecological Research [PAKOE], perhaps in consideration of the new traffic-control measures.

Breeze Had No Effect

The cloud's pollution levels were in the same range yesterday as well, despite the light breeze which was blowing. According to the announcement by PAKOE, the values of the "cloud" as taken in 2-hour measurements for the past 24 hours were: Smoke: Athens, 4.03 fm. m. [units unknown]; Piraeus, 3.8 fm. m. Airborne particulates: Athens, 861 micrograms/m³; Piraeus, 645 mgr/m³. Sulfur dioxide: Athens, 45 mgr/m³; Piraeus, 134 mgr/m³. Nitrogen dioxide: Athens, 215 mgr/m³; Piraeus, 298 mgr/m³.

And as is shown by the meteorological observations, no improvement is expected within the next few days.

In the face of this threat, the authorities have turned once again to the tried and unsuccessful traffic-control measures, showing indifference to the protests of the people and of the Athens Commercial Association. Thus, according to the decisions which have been announced up to now, beginning Monday: The movement of private and public vehicles is forbidden every day up to Friday from 700 hours to 930 hours within the famous "ring."

From Monday to Thursday, in the hours from 930 hours to 2000 hours, and Friday from 930 hours to 1500 hours, the measure on the alternate traffic of private and public vehicles (odd or even) is to be implemented.

In the first phase these measures will be in effect until 15 December.

According to journalists' reports, the implementation later on of a plan which includes even more austere measures is being studied!

12114

CSO: 5000/4704

THERMAIKOS GULF POLLUTION REACHES HIGH POINT

Athens 1 AVGI in Greek 3 Nov 82 p 2

[Article by Khr. Telidis]

[Text] Salonica--The problem of the pollution of the Thermaikos Gulf has assumed tragic proportions.

During the first day of the seminar organized by the Association of Chemical Engineers of Northern Greece, which is taking place from 1 to 14 November at the Salonica Polytechnic School on the subject of the treatment of liquid industrial wastes, some data were presented by Th. Angelidis, representative of the environmental group of the association. According to this data, an azoic zone has been created in the Thermaikos Gulf. In this zone all organisms have disappeared, and the substratum has undergone a radical change. Up to 1976 this had been limited to an area in the gulf where the wastes of the industrial park are discharged, whereas by now it has extended to the point where the outflow from the city sewer pipe occurs.

Furthermore, the broader zone of pollution, which in 1976 was limited to the shoreline area from the mouth of the Gallikos up to Mikros Emvolos, now covers all the northern and northeastern portion of the gulf as well as the estuaries of the Axios, Loudias, and Aliakmon rivers, which bring down sewage and wastes from a very broad region. In this zone the changes in the physicochemical parameters are significant, resulting in a decrease in the variety of living species of as much as 60 percent and an increase in the abundance of the resistant species. The zone below the natural shoreline covers almost all of the remaining gulf except for the deep waters in the open sea around Mikros Emvolos. In this zone, significant changes in the physicochemical parameters of the water and of the sediment on the sea bottom have appeared, and 10 to 20 percent of all living species has disappeared.

12114

CSO: 5000/4704

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WARNS OF POISONOUS ALGAE IN LAKES

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 17 Nov 82 p 5

[Article by Thorwald Olsson: "Toxic Algae Kill and Harm Animals"]

[Text] The Environmental Protection Agency is now issuing toxic substance warnings against Swedish lake waters.

Large amounts of poisonous blue-green algae occur in at least three lakes. The poisonous algae have harmed and killed animals.

Humans can also be affected by the microscopic algae.

Research fellow Torbjorn Willen at the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Research Laboratory in Uppsala heads the study of algae. He says to DAGENS NYHETER:

"We have finally received confirmation after years of uncertainty. The toxic blue-green algae, which bloom most profusely in waters rich in nutrients, definitely exist in Nya Ullevi Bay in Malaren, Ostra Ringsjon in Scania and the Oren lake outside Atvidaberg."

But it is to be expected that more waters are poisoned. Our study is only in its beginning and more analyzed results are on the way.

For nearly 100 years the farmers, above all, at regular intervals attributed animals deaths to the presence of blue-green algae.

After having drunk their fill of water in which blue-green algae were blooming, the animals became sick and died seemingly inexplicably. Humans have also long been affected by the toxic algae: allergy and stomach problems (the intestines are affected) are known symptoms.

Research fellow Willen says: "In Norway they achieved results more rapidly than here. When about 40 heads of cattle died last summer after drinking lake water with blooming blue-green algae, people in our neighboring country took a very thorough approach in their investigations."



The lakes included in the ongoing study of algae. The spreading of poison has been determined in three: Malaren, Oren and Ostra Ringsjon.

"The results confirmed what had been suspected and now we have also received the same answer in Sweden after having sent samples from a few lakes to the Norwegian Institute for Water Research in Oslo. And, as I said, we are expecting analyses of more samples."

The first samples thus came from Ostra Ringsjon in Scania, Lilla Ullevi Bay in Malaren and Oren outside Atvidaberg.

Next, information is expected concerning conditions in Hjalmar, the bays of Ekoln, Galten (Koping) in Malaren, Vasteras Bay and Ullevi Bay (new samples) and Lilla Brunnsjon outside Hedemora in Dalecarlia.

"As early as the beginning of the 1970's cattle died after drinking the water of Ostra Ringsjon in Scania. The blue-green algae were blooming at the time," Torbjorn Willen further relates.

Lilla Brunnsjon is particularly interesting: In August the alarm was sounded that fish were suddenly dying in the lake. We believe it has to do with algae poisoning. The samples will tell.

Environmental experts accuse the sanitation departments and agriculture, among others, of sharing responsibility for poisoning our water plants.

"We even found symptoms on the west coast, and the fact that the lakes are poisoned is surely connected with the enormous overfertilization in agriculture and the discharge by the sanitation departments," in Torbjorn Willen's opinion.

A typical indication is that it is in waters rich in nutrients that the "poisonous blooming" of the blue-green algae are most commonly found. Consequently, the lakes of the agricultural regions are the most endangered.

Torbjorn Willen describes the sight which met him at Lilla Ullevi Bay in Malaren during sample-taking:

"The algae, which are microscopic, lay in a centimeter-thick, dark-red layer along portions of the beach. But this blooming was not worse than what I have seen before. The water surface can be blocked by a 10-centimeter-thick pulpy mass of rotting, foul-smelling algae."

The discovery of toxic algae in Swedish waters is only the beginning. The question is for how many decades the waters have been poisoned without any possibility of protecting neither animals nor people.

Drinking water is often taken from lakes.

Torbjorn Willen says: "One should not exaggerate, but humans can also be harmed, as has been shown in tests. Therefore, the municipalities should carefully monitor the waters from which drinking water is pumped."

A human can drink about 1 liter of algae-poisoned water before he suffers serious harm.

Symptoms have occurred in bathtubs as well: People taking baths have been afflicted by some kind of fever attacks. Water poisoning is suspected.

As regards fish, the risk is the same. The toxic algae in the lakes are believed to explain many previously unexplained cases of fish, bird and cattle deaths, as well as the symptoms in people.

Torbjorn Willen believes that confirmation of the presence [of toxic algae] should result in the initiation of a broad scientific project:

"Physicians, veterinarians and water plant experts should coordinate their researches," he says.

Torbjorn Willen also wants the general public to be alert. If anyone knows something which can be connected with the toxic algae, he should contact the Water Research Laboratory in Uppsala (Willen), telephone (018) 10 80 49.

11447

ISO: 5000/2519

VOLVO REQUEST TO INCREASE HYDROCARBON DISCHARGES DENIED

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 12 Nov 82 p 14

[Article by Rolf Akerberg: "Government No to Volvo About Increased Discharge"]

[Text] Goteborg, Thursday--On Thursday the government denied Volvo's request for an increase in the discharge of hydrocarbons from the Torslanda works. Volvo considered it necessary to increase the production of cars with metallic paint in order better to compete with MBW and Mercedes--which presumes an increased discharge of hydrocarbons.

The Environmental Protection Agency has previously expressed an opinion on this in agreement with the decision now taken by the government. In analyses made by Asst Prof Goran Petersson at Goteborgs University it was found that Volvo's discharges are measurable kilometers further away than previously believed.

The government expresses the opinion that through a combination of cleanup measures and production orientation Volvo should be able to keep the discharge down to the same level as today, that is to say 3,400 tons of hydrocarbons annually, as compared to the requested 3,900 tons. The government is also of the opinion that despite the denial Volvo has room for a certain increase in production over the next few years and that labor will not need to be laid off. On the contrary, under favorable conditions 1,800 new persons could be hired.

The government line is tougher than that of the Franchise Board for Environmental Protection. The board decided last year to permit the discharge of 3,400 tons of hydrocarbons but later agreed to 3,900 tons during a transitional period up to 1984.

In its argumentation Volvo stated that the company wants to increase its capacity of cars with metallic paint from 65,00 a year to 125,000. In percent this would mean an increase from 35 to 57. As a comparison Volvo referred to the fact that Mercedes and BMW have a metallic capacity of 80 percent.

Reduces the Discharge

At Volvo Ingvar Olofsson says that the company will undertake all possible measures to reduce the discharge and simultaneously expand the metallic capacity.

Over a 3-year period 100 million kronor will be invested in order to clean the discharge from the high-temperature furnaces, a measure described as the only one technically feasible today. This results in a reduction of the discharge by 300 tons. The discharge from the spray booths, which represents 90 percent, is impossible to clean up today--no automobile factory anywhere in the world has succeeded in that.

The first stage of the installation for cleaning up the hydrocarbon discharge from the high-temperature furnaces will be completed during the industrial vacation in the summer of 1983. Lines number three and four at the paintdivision of the Torslanda works will then get so-called thermal baking.

An advisory group with members from the county government, the Environmental Protection Agency and Volvo has been appointed and will work up to the turn of the year 1983-84 on seeking solutions to for example reduced spilling, new paints and new cleanup techniques. The group is also to follow the development in other automobile factories.

11949

CSO: 5000/2517

PRECIPITATION OF HEAVY METALS FROM ATMOSPHERE DECLINING

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 12 Nov 82 p 14

[Article by Lasse Johansson: "Environmental Protection Agency: Reduced Precipitation of Heavy Metals"]

[Text] The precipitation of heavy metals from the air is decreasing. This was shown by a study, Monitor 1982, done by the Environmental Protection Agency. It is primarily lead, cadmium and zinc which are decreasing noticeably, as shown by the results of the 800 tests on mosses from all over the country which have been analyzed.

It was in connection with the flourishing of the industrial society after World War II that an increasingly rapid stream of toxic substances was released into the air and water.

Heavy metals in large quantities were released into the air from combustion of oil and leaded gasoline. Both air and water had to accept a great deal of metals discharge from mines, steelworks and other heavy industries. Toxic organic substances were also spread in trying to control pests in forestry and agriculture.

In the 1960's one began to realize the danger, the laws were stiffened and an improvement is now beginning to show up. In 1975 and 1980 Ake Ruhling at the Institute for Water and Air Pollution Research did a survey of heavy metals in house moss and road moss gathered from the entire country during the national forest survey.

As expected, the study shows that most of the heavy metals occur in higher concentrations in southwestern Sweden than in other parts of the country due to the large amount of precipitation carried there by winds from the continent.

Despite that, the lead content in moss decreased by as much as 40 percent from 1975 to 1980. The lead discharge from cars declined between 10 and 15 percent during this time. The remainder of the decrease presumably depends on reduced lead discharge abroad.

In 1975 the cadmium content of moss from southern Gotaland, which was hardest hit, amounted to about 0.9 mg/kg (milligrams per kilogram). In 1980 the

levels had dropped to 0.7 mg, and in most other places in Sweden a corresponding decrease has taken place.

Areas with high chromium and nickel levels have shrunk considerably. These pollutants previously existed in a broad belt from Gota River via Bergslagen to Gästrikland. The precipitation of arsenic, copper and vanadium was about the same in 1980 as 5 years before.

Plant Closings

The positive results can be seen as a direct result of the far-reaching discharge curtailment by the metals industry, the Environmental Protection Agency maintains in a press release. In addition, the widespread plant closings have played a certain role. But despite the improved results, heavy metals from many years are stored in the ground and in lake beds, toxic pollutants which can be released and reach the ground water, plants, animals and people, in particular if the acidification is allowed to continue at an undiminished rate.

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CSO: 5000/2517

SWEDEN

BRIEFS

CYANIDE RELEASED INTO SEWERS--The greatest environmental scandal since BT Kemi in Teckomatorp is now unfolding in Fagersta. The Svensk Fotokemi company is accused of having released 110,000 liters of cyanide-containing water into the municipality's sewer system. The water contained an amount of poison which exceeded the permissible level 15,000 times. Four persons in the company's management risk indictment for violation of the environmental protection law, among others. According to the public health chief in Fagersta, the employees of the company have been working under a direct threat to their lives. [Text]
[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 18 Nov 82 p 1] 11949

5000/2519

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 6 Nov 82 p 9

[Interview with Refet Erim, environmental undersecretary for the prime minister's office, by Taylan Sorgun]

[Text] [Question] Environmental pollution, which is gradually increasing, is a subject of concern in Turkey. Just as the issue was not given the necessary importance until very recently, measures taken from time to time were superficial and did not get to the essence of the problem. It has been demonstrated that pollution of fresh water sources and the seas does not only have negative effects on man's health, but also has adverse effects in the economic field. It can be seen that problems which require measures that have been put off have now become more difficult to solve, that new problems have erupted on their own. I believe that it is necessary to look at the issue using general guidelines first.

[Answer] Environmental problems do not recognize national or political boundaries. Pollution of the air, water resources, the sea which begins within the borders of a nation can spread to other nations. Environmental problems, which can be the result of affluence and development, can also occur because of a lack of funds in countries such as ours. It is necessary to set aside specific resources in order to combat it, but the lack of resources does not permit this.

[Question] In which of our regions is environmental pollution most evident?

[Answer] Environmental pollution, which is spreading, exists in various districts. This pollution is seen in the air, domestic waters, and our seas. Air pollution resulting from heating fuels is a problem in our large cities. However, because of meteorological factors, it is not felt to the same degree in every city. For example, Ankara, Erzurum, and Kayseri are the cities that suffer the greatest from air pollution. Errors in selecting sites for industrial organizations also have an effect on air pollution. The Corum cement factory, for example, was located outside the city when it was planned, but is now within the city limits because of rapid urbanization. Emissions that pollute the air are sent out right over the city.

Filters Knocked out of Service

[Question] Several measures to deal with air pollution from heating fuels have been proposed.

[Answer] Yes. There are means to do so. The first is to use better fuels, and the second is to burn the fuel more efficiently. A third is to use as little fuel as possible.

[Question] You talked about better fuels. Is it possible for Turkey to find better fuels?

[Answer] There is the problem of high costs for Turkey. We have planned to use better fuels in Ankara this year and to reduce air pollution by 50 percent.

[Question] What about the other cities you mentioned?

[Answer] A pilot program is being tested in Ankara. You asked whether or not we can provide the fuel secured for Ankara for other provinces. This is still not possible under present conditions. Coal resources are limited. Coke produces better results than lignite, but we are forced to use coke in industry as well. Furthermore, a certain amount must be imported each year. In this respect, this emerges as a restriction we must face when seeking to include delivery of this good fuel to other provinces.

[Question] Well, then, facilities to purify fuels have been established. Has installation of filters on chimneys been considered?

[Answer] Yes, two types of filters are being used. The first is an extremely simple process. Smoke rising within a restricted area is broken up by suddenly increasing the diameter of the area. The other is a system using electricity. Its cost is much greater.

[Question] But is it possible to employ a system that is electrical both from the standpoint of cost and because of fluctuating voltage?

[Answer] Power outages and voltage changes are having a great effect on the operation of filters we are attempting to utilize at industrial facilities in particular. We now have a mandatory filter system for all cement factories in Turkey. The Ministry of Industry and Technology is following up on this very seriously. But, as you said, voltage fluctuations do put these filters out of service. Emissions escape into the air during the time it takes to put the filters into operation again.

[Question] You spoke a while ago about pollution of our inland waters and our seas. There is also the problem of an important sewerage program for Istanbul about which the public still knows little. I wonder if there are aspects of this that are somewhat controversial.

[Answer] There are various causes of pollution of the seas. There are discharges into the sea from both coastal residences and from industrial facilities. Urban wastes can become biological wastes to a certain point, but industrial wastes remain in the sea as problematical wastes for a length of time. There is also the pollution resulting from maritime commerce. One element here is the transportation of petroleum by means of tankers. Problems occur during the loading and unloading process. Furthermore, tankers dump their bilge water into the sea. The Marmara complex, including Izmit and the Golden Horn, is faced with a serious problem in this respect and because of wastes resulting from industrialization and urbanization. It is also possible to speak of pollution of the sea at Iskenderun and along the Aliaga coast.

[Question] This pollution has an adverse effect on life we harvest from the sea. You just mentioned that tankers empty their bilge water into the sea. Let us take a look at a close example, at Istanbul. From time to time, the water of the Bosphorus is covered with a layer of oil. Bilge water is dumped. Garbage is thrown overboard. I wonder if measures have been taken to combat this by other seaports.

[Answer] Of course they have. There are stiff penalties for ships that empty bilge water into the sea even once.

[Question] Then, haven't we set down penalties for this?

[Answer] In 1926, Ports Law No 618 was enacted. Under this law, a fine of the equivalent of 6,000 liras today was imposed for discharges that pollute the seas. A bill to increase this fine significantly is before Advisory Assembly commissions at this moment. If the bill becomes law, up to 10 million liras will be charged depending upon the amount of pollution produced.

[Question] In practice, how will it be determined that a ship dumped out its bilge water in transit?

[Answer] Other countries are able to control this. Coastal protection organizations have been formed. As you know, a coastal protection commandant has been established in Turkey. Harbor directorates will be able to carry out this supervision of ports from the air and at sea with the resources they possess, and the Coastal Protection Commandant will do the same outside the harbors. Other nations, however, do not stop with this. Other measures are also taken. For example, just as the city collects garbage from residences, waste-collecting boats are put into service. These boats collect the bilge water and other wastes from ships that load and unload at ports. Such a service will be included in the new law.

[Question] When will this practice begin? I am asking, because we make various decisions and pass laws, but they remain only on paper due to a lack of responsibility, a lack of resources. This has occurred with many things. Furthermore, Turkey has no time to lose in this area. When will implementation begin?

[Answer] You are correct. Turkey has no time to waste on this topic. It is certain that this bill, which was introduced in March 1981, must be passed at once. If it had been passed earlier, we would have gained a year of time. Despite this, I am not pessimistic.

[Question] I asked you when.

[Answer] If the law is enacted this year or during the first months of next year, it will begin to be enforced and fines will begin to be imposed within a year. However, the necessary equipment would be available at ports at the end of 1983.

[Question] Very well, then. For how many years has this been going on? For a long time, the Istanbul Bosphorus has been swimming in all this filth.

[Answer] It has been going on for at least 15 years.

[Question] Why, I wonder, haven't measures been taken for 15 years?

[Answer] I am not qualified to answer that. However, in every country, certain problems must reach critical proportion, unfortunately, before they are able to be solved. It is expected that this will reach unbearable dimensions. It takes time for the public to become conscious and for the decision-making mechanisms to be put into action.

[Question] You are correct in one respect. A new form of pollution has also been seen recently. In addition, the carcass of a huge ship has still not been able to be removed.

[Answer] Yes, the recent pollution is from the Independenta, which burned and sank close to the straits when coming to Istanbul from the Black Sea. The pollution spread as far as our inland waters. As I said a while ago, this is an example of how the problem of pollution has no boundaries.

If we return to the debris in the Bosphorus, the fact that that ship's remains are still there is an international disgrace. Unfortunately, peacemaking negotiations with the nation that fitted out this ship have not produced results to date. In fact, this task should not have gone on this long, but the nation that owns the ship has been unable to meet our reasonable demands on this issue, because it has been unable to resolve relations with its own insurance company in the required manner. Let me only say that we will be able to have the opportunity to be paid equitably for our loss before the end of the year -- in December, in other words -- by reaching an agreement with the firm that owns the ship through cases that have been initiated.

[Question] Can you give a final figure?

[Answer] A case has been opened for part of the money. Because some claims were uncertain, we are also pursuing this at the executive level. The figure we are demanding, I believe, amounts to 20 billion liras. We are also seeking an amount close to this through executive channels.

[Question] There was a controversial sewerage project for Istanbul.

[Answer] It is not possible to say there is a serious sewerage system in Istanbul, which has 5 million residents. Besides the wastes that enter the sea, there is the danger of leakage into drinking water sources. A sewerage system project was drawn up for Istanbul by a firm by the name of Damok with credit obtained from the World Bank. The World Bank claimed that, in order to carry out this project, it would be appropriate for a separate organization to deal with Istanbul's water sewerage problem. Therefore, we established an organization we call ISKI [Istanbul Water and Sewerage Office]. Bids for contracts related with collectors will be sought in the months ahead.

[Question] As far as we know, wastes will be dumped into the Marmara Sea under this project. Can we be sure that no problem will result from this?

[Answer] You have brought up a debatable subject. We have serious concerns about this issue. In accordance with the project, Istanbul's wastes will flow directly to the Black Sea from eight different points by way of underwater currents. Studies that were made, however, show that these subcurrents in the Marmara do not extend as far as the Black Sea. In that case, there is the possibility that the wastes emptied into the sea will surface somewhere in the Marmara. When the Northern Seas Regional Commandant and the Istanbul Martial Law Commandant called attention to the problem, the topic was taken up at the national government level.

[Question] What you speak of are measures for the future. Incorrect applications are seen today among us. When industrial installations are established, purification units are not built at the outset because of reluctance to spend 300 million to 500 million liras. Later, the costs rise to 5 billion liras. In addition, there are everyday problems. The Istanbul coast, the Aegean coast, the Mediterranean coast are garbage dumps. There is probably no need for a national law here. A solution can be reached through local measures, but, for some reason or other, nothing is being done.

[Answer] Yes, you are correct. In countries like ours, added expenses are avoided when building industrial facilities. It is necessary that economic problems not be ignored, but this situation, as we said before, causes trouble in later years for both the nation and facility. Turkey began to take an interest in this in 1930. Under the Hygiene Law, facilities that are, by nature, polluting are not allowed to be established within city limits. The result, however, is evident. I am not saying this to criticize the past. But it is the truth. There is, for example, Kazlıcesme.

Kazlıcesme and the Golden Horn

[Question] When cars pass through the area, windows are rolled up. People hold their noses when going through. But it does no good. A study in which measurements were taken was made in Kazlıcesme in 1965. The conclusion of the report that was issued said this -- the place is unfit for human habitation. However, it still remains the same. In fact, it is even worse now. We have been dragging our feet for years even about this little problem.

[Answer] It is well that you did not ask me this question when we met previously and that you have asked it now. If you asked then, I would have been forced to bow my head in shame. In the very near future, prefabricated purification facilities will be transported to Orhankoy on the Tuzla ridge.

[Question] And have you distributed pictures of the Golden Horn to the four corners of the world as tourism publicity?

[Answer] Work is being carried out on this topic. There are two issues related to Istanbul on which our prime minister has placed emphasis. One is the Golden Horn. The other is Kazlıcesme. The last day for the move of the privately owned dockyards in the Golden Horn is 15 November. Thereafter, the area will be planted with trees, and other work will be undertaken. You mentioned that the coasts are like garbage dumps. Looking at it practically, this problem can be solved. Rauf Tamer wrote, "If bureaucrats will not utter empty words about air pollution, I will not be concerned with the constitution and such things." The problem is one of consciousness. It has become habit to throw garbage into the sea. In addition, it has become customary not to collect garbage from homes along the seacoast. After the vote on the constitution is taken, a meeting with Marmara coast governors and municipal chairmen will be held in Ankara.

[Question] Thank you, Mr. Erim. Let's talk again about implementation.

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